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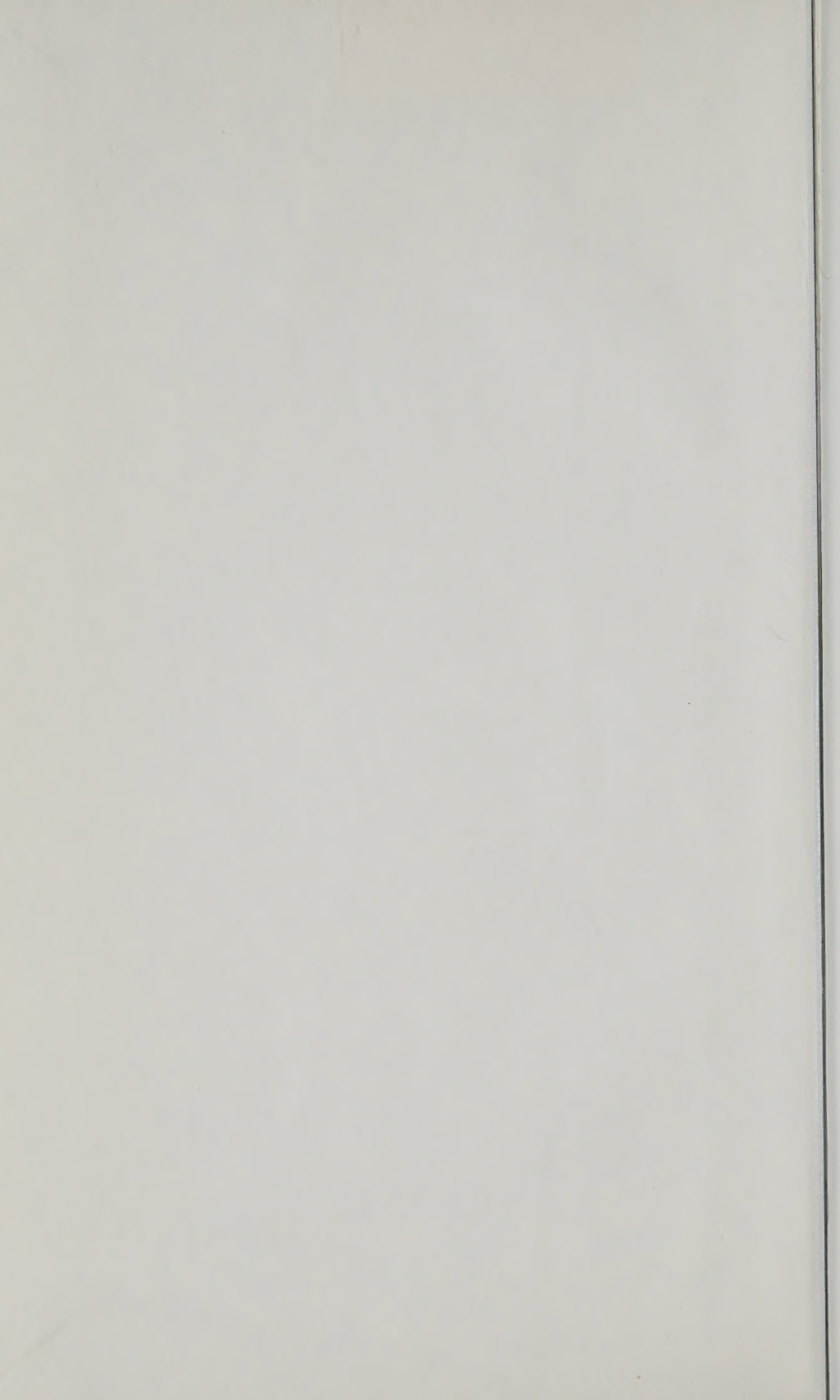
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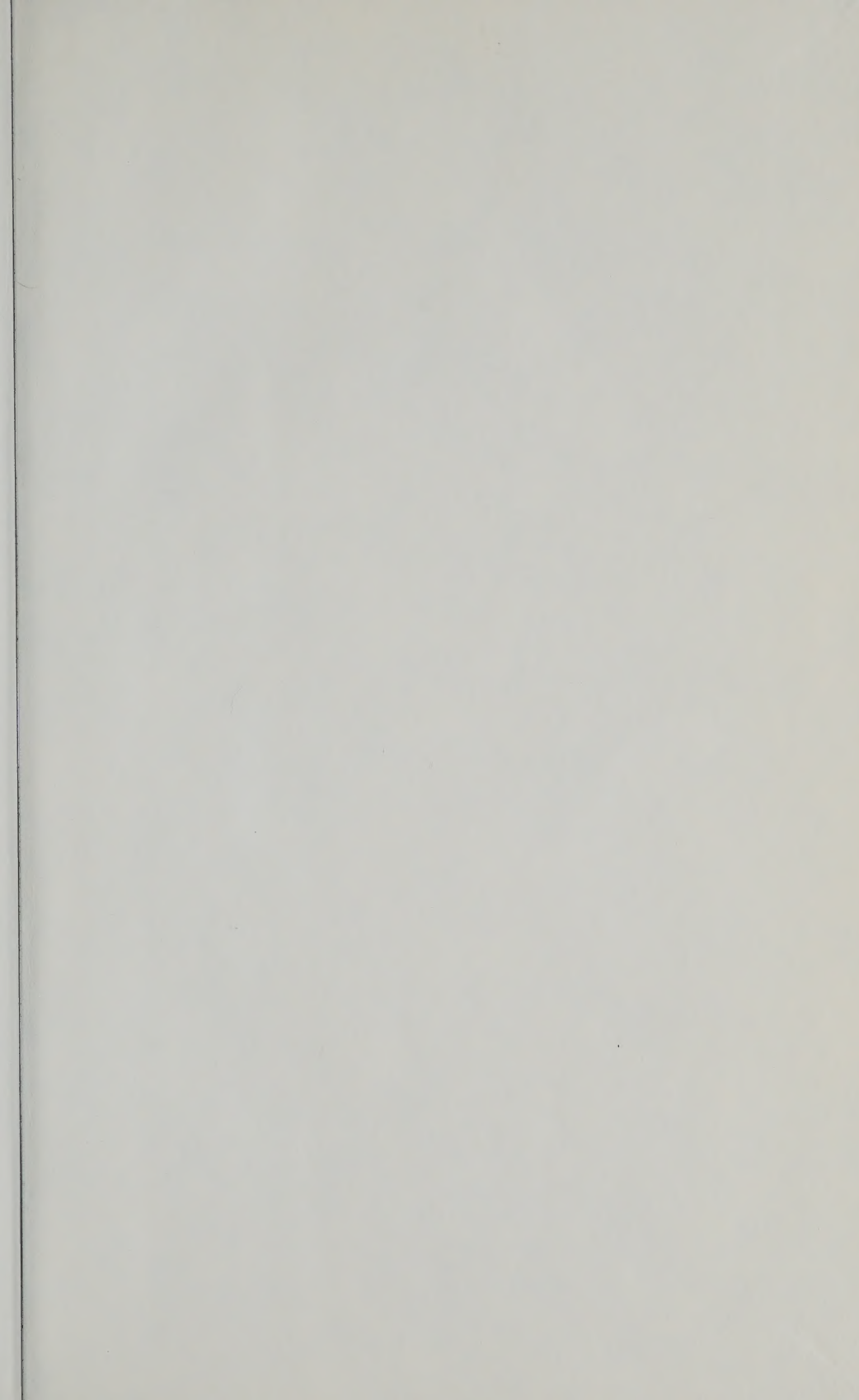
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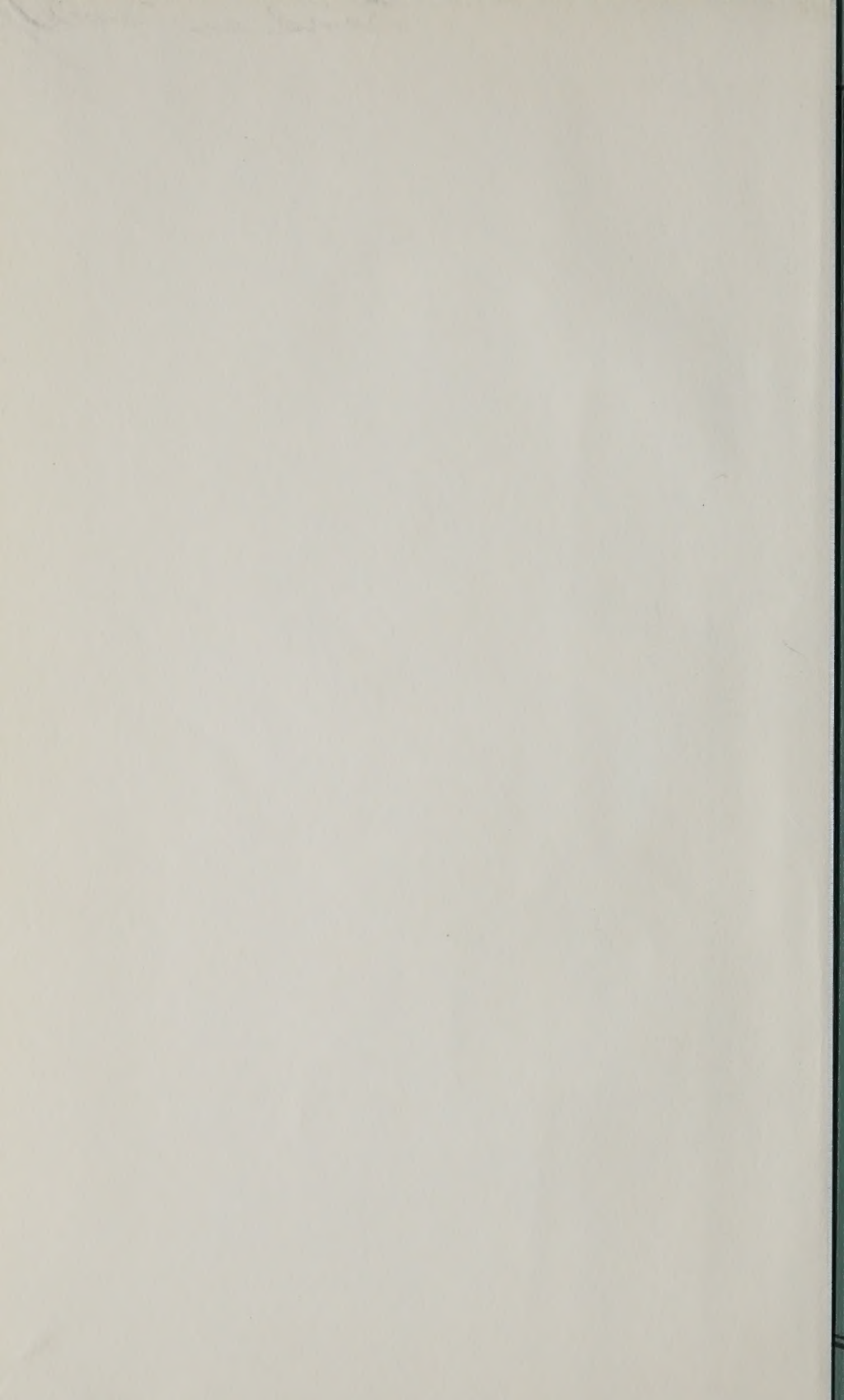
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Our

First

Families

by

LAURA LINDLEY

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Dedicated

to

The Lindley Family

In All Its Branches

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By

LAURA LINDLEY

1540148



Bingham Township

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The most vital part of the story of OUR FIRST FAMILIES was secured by personal interviews with the pioneers or their descendants. They have been most generous in sharing their treasured memories, and in lending family treasures and old histories. To all of them I give my hearty thanks and appreciation. They include the following:

LEVI W. and CATHERINE LINDLEY	EDWARD GROESSER
CONRAD VOELKER	PERRY GROESSER
HERBERT S. and SADA LINDLEY	JOSEPH KUEMIN
PERRY and MARGARET LINDLEY	ROSE LEWIS
RALPH LINDLEY	ROSCOE MEBERT
GENEVIEVE LINDLEY	ALVIN REVOLD
MRS. B. J. DE BOER	HOWARD REINCKE
WILLIAM B. BOONE	LEONARD ROGERS
KENNETH DARROW	CATHERINE H. SANBORN
PHOEBE DRAPER	IRMA V. SANBORN
ETELKA DUNKLOW	WILLIAM and CATHERINE SANBORN
MRS. JAMES FISHER	OSCAR SHUGART
CLIFFORD FOSTER	JOY LASCH VALSKO
REV. PHILIP A. FRETHEIM	WILLIAM R. WEIGAND
AMELIA GREEN	

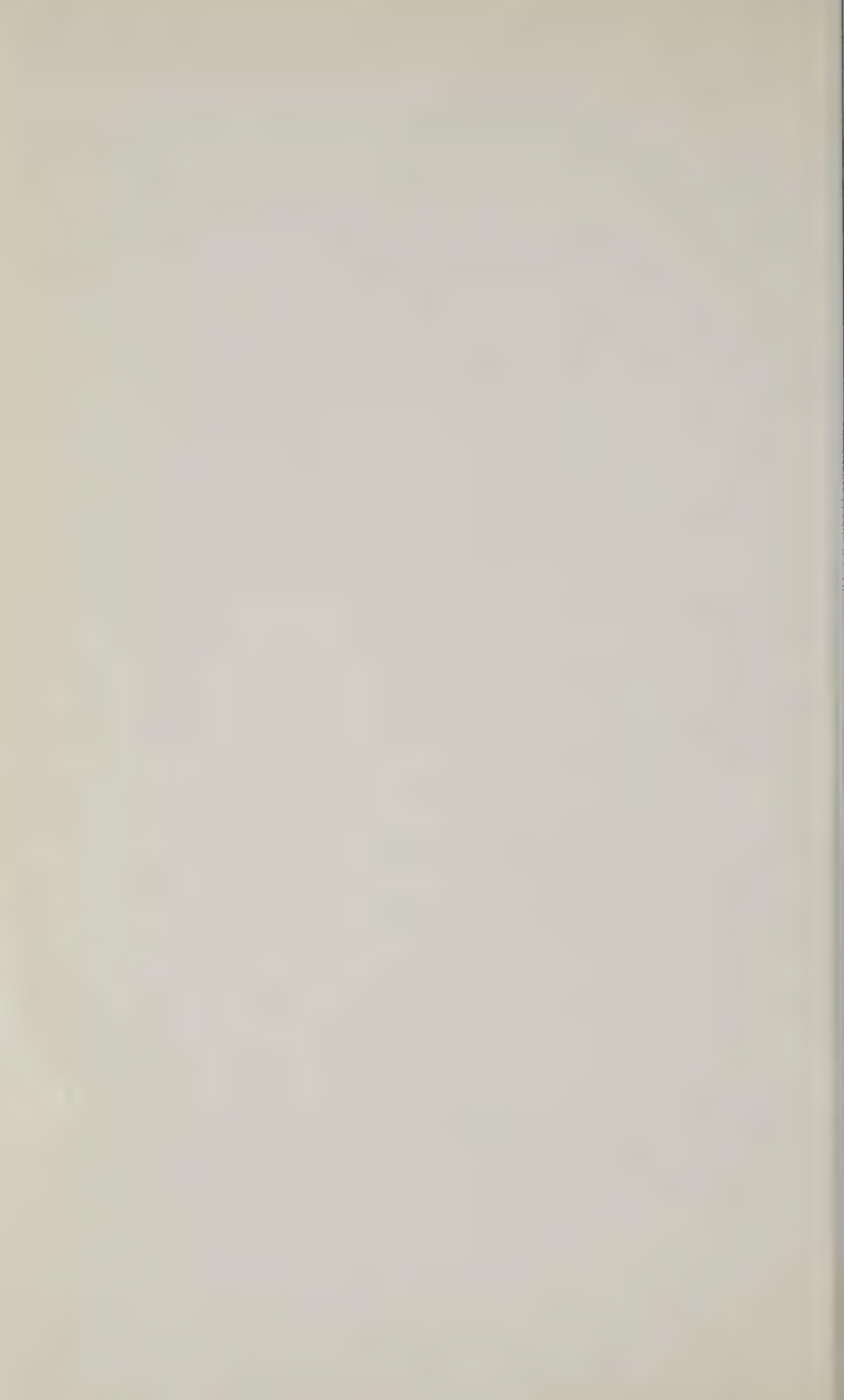
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Every effort has been made to present an accurate and factual record of OUR FIRST FAMILIES, with their sturdy virtues and unique personalities. They were worth knowing! For all omissions or errors indulgence is craved.

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Chapter 1

IN THE BEGINNING

Michigan, admitted to the Union in 1837, has a proud and complacent motto, "*Si quæris peninsulam amœnam, circumspice*," which means, "If you seek a beautiful peninsula, look about you." Leelanaw, at the northwest tip of the Lower Peninsula, could well claim the same distinction, for it is one of the most beautiful regions in the state.

In the early days the Grand Traverse region was practically one county. Antrim, Leelanaw, and Benzie were attached to Grand Traverse for civil and judicial purposes. There were nine townships in this early Grand Traverse County—Meegezee, Milton, Whitewater, Peninsula, Traverse, Leelanaw, Centerville, Glen Arbor, and Crystal Lake.

In 1840 that part of the territory now constituting Grand Traverse was formed into a separate county, known as Omena. The present Leelanaw and Benzie counties, with the Manitou Islands, was made a separate county known as Leelanaw. The present Leelanaw, with its attached territory, was erected into a township of that name, and the first township meeting was held in the house of Rev. Peter Dougherty in 1853.

In 1863 the Legislature passed acts to organize Leelanaw county, separating it from Benzie county. It had three townships, Centerville, Glen Arbor, and Leelanaw. The county seat was at Northport, where it remained until 1882, when it was removed to Leland.

The first officers of Leelanaw county were elected in 1863: Judge of Probate, John E. Fisher; sheriff, Edward Friend; treasurer, John I. Miller; clerk and register of deeds, Gerhard Verfuth; prosecuting attorney and Circuit Court commissioner, E. Cromwell Tuttle; surveyor, Joseph C. Glen; coroners, George N. Smith and George Ray.

The first term of the Circuit Court for the county of Leelanaw was held in Northport on May 5, 1864, by Judge F. J. Littlejohn, of the 10th Circuit. About this time the 13th Circuit was formed by Act of the Legislature, of which both Leelanaw and Grand Traverse counties were a part. Hon. J. G. Ramsdell was the first judge of the new Circuit and held the first term of Court in Northport in 1864. Judge Ramsdell came to Northport in 1861, and shortly thereafter went to Traverse City and bought a tract of land near by and developed it into the celebrated Ramsdell fruit farm. He was prominent in many agricultural and pomological societies.

Chapter 2

OLD MISSION AND NEW MISSION

In May, 1839, the Rev. Peter Dougherty, missionary of the Presbyterian Board, came to Mission Harbor on Grand Traverse Bay to establish a school among the Indians near where Elk Rapids is now. Mr. Dougherty

was a graduate of Princeton Seminary. He was a person of strong convictions, energetic in labor, with gentle and pleasant manners, and his family was worthy of him.

In the spring of 1840 the log house which had been built at Elk Rapids was taken down and the material transported across the bay to the Peninsula, and used in the construction of a school house and wood shed. Until a mission church was built the school house was used for religious purposes as well as for a school.

In the fall of 1841 Mr. and Mrs. Dougherty and their infant daughter arrived at Old Mission with two men whose names are intimately associated with the history of Northern Michigan. Deacon Joseph Dame had come to Mackinac, Michigan, and began trading with the Indians. With him came Mrs. Dame, a son and two daughters.

The second man was Lewis Miller. He had become acquainted with the Dames in Mackinac and a strong friendship grew up between them. He was then seventeen years old. He opened trade with the Indians on the bay, getting his supplies from Mackinac, or sometimes from stranded vessels. He married Miss Catherine Kiley in 1845, the first white marriage in the Grand Traverse territory, and their oldest son was the first white child born in that country.

A number of changes occurred and the Indians determined to remove to the west side of the bay. Mr. Dougherty then changed the location of the mission to New Mission, now called Omena, in Leelanaw county, in the spring of 1852. Deacon Dame and Lewis Miller came with them.

A manual school was opened in the fall. The boys worked on the farm under the direction of George A. Craker. He was well qualified, having been born on a farm in New York, moved to another farm in Wisconsin, and then coming in 1853 to New Mission to work under the Presbyterian Board of Missions. He continued in this work for seventeen years, when he moved to a farm he had purchased.

Mr. Craker and his wife were devoted members of the Presbyterian church in Omena, which was organized in 1852 and dedicated in 1858. He was superintendent of the white Sunday school, and organized an Indian Sunday school also.

Later Mr. Craker retired to a farm and erected a frame house in 1866 where his descendants still live. His son married Della Dorland, who with her older sister, Lizzie Dorland, taught in Suttons Bay in the '80's. His grand-daughter, Miss Ruth Craker, writes most interesting stories of the pioneer days.

Another teacher at the New Mission school was John Porter, from Pennsylvania, who became well known in Leelanaw county history. He came in 1854, accompanied by his wife and child, and continued as a teacher among the Indians for the Presbyterian Board for over six years, then moved to his farm in Leland township in 1861.

The settlement grew, and people wanted contact with the outside world at regular intervals, so a post office was opened on February 9, 1858, and called Omena.

An interesting memorial of the work among the Indians is the collection of "Chippeway and English Hymns, for the use of the Native Indians, Translated by Peter Jones, Indian Missionary, to which are added a few Hymns translated by the Rev. James Evans and George Henry," the second edition of which was printed in 1847.

The old edition of the Ojibway hymn-book had been out of print for some time, when converted Indians at the various Ojibway mission stations asked to have it reprinted because the Great Spirit had made their hearts rejoice while singing his praises and they wished to retain what had been a blessing to them.

Peter Jones set to work. For the accommodation of white friends who occasionally worshipped with the Indians, the English hymns are printed on the lefthand pages, and the Indian translations on the right. The Indian words are divided into syllables, to make them easier for the Indians and white people both to read. The Indian words are written with the simple sounds of the English alphabet. The Doxology was translated as follows:

Mah moo yuh wuh mah dah mah buh,
Wain je zhuh wain dah go ze yung;
Wa yoo se mind, Wa gwe se mind,
Kuh ya Pah ne zid O je chog!

Chapter 3 NORTHPORT

This story concerns itself with the eastern part of Leelanaw county. Many of the early settlers landed at Northport, whether they came from the eastern states or Canada by way of Lake Huron, or from the west, across Lake Michigan. The immigrants trickled southward, to Omena, to Suttons Bay, to Lees Bay, or to the inland country which became Keswick, and to Bingham. Greilickville, at the southern end of the county, got some of its settlers by way of Traverse City as well as from the country to the north.

These intrepid pioneers pictured the future in glowing colors, and set about making their dreams come true with self-reliant hardihood.

Deacon Joseph Dame had come to Omena with the Indian missionaries, but soon felt the urge to explore further. To the north a few miles there was a beautiful arm of Grand Traverse Bay, and Mr. Dame could picture a village snuggling on the shore and prospering with the years. So he founded Northport, platted the village and began the construction of a dock in 1853 or 1854. In 1855 Northport was organized as the first school district in the county, and a post office was established in the same year with A. B. Paige as post master.

Deacon Dame kept the first hotel in the town, and preceding that had entertained travelers in his own house. William Voice began construction of a saw mill in 1855, and William Thomas built the first frame house in 1856 for Mr. Woodruff.

The early history of the county was closely connected with the lakes, as that was the easiest way of travel for many years. Captain E. O. Wilbur came to Northport in 1856 from the North Manitou Islands, his father having stopped off there to cut cordwood for Piccard Brothers, the first white man to set up a permanent establishment on the Island.

Captain Wilbur took up sailing for a livelihood as soon as he was old enough. From 1871 to 1873 he sailed the *Elly Burrows*; then the *Van Raalt*, of the Goodrich Line which plied the lake out of Chicago. He sailed the *Clara Belle*, a *Hannah & Lay* steamer, and then the *City of Grand Rapids*, a famous boat which he commanded until she was sold in 1895.

These sailings were pleasant enough in good weather, but when storms roared across the lakes, the uncharted rocks and shallows endangered shipping and many boats were lost. As early as 1853 the people determined to erect a lighthouse at Cat Head Point, at the tip of Leelanaw county, and a number of persons served as keepers for the first years. Then Captain Peter Nelson came to this country in 1835, and sailed the lakes for many years. When he was ready to settle down he took the lighthouse keeper's post at Cat Head Point.

John Kehl was born in Alsace, France, in 1835, and came to the United States when three years old. In 1857 he came to Leelanaw county and settled on a farm. Three of his sons, James L., Edward G., and Chris B., engaged in a mercantile business in Northport and prospered so that in 1902 they built a cement structure, the first store of its kind in Leelanaw county. Chris B. Kehl was township clerk, treasurer of the county, and a member of the school board at various times.

Another pioneer was the Englishman William Gill, who came to Northport in 1855, an invalid in search of health. He engaged to some extent in farming, and in 1863 began the mercantile business. He was county treasurer for fourteen years, and held many town offices.

One of the earliest settlers in the Northport region was the Rev. George N. Smith, missionary to the Indians, who came with his flock in 1849. The Congregational church was organized in 1863, though there had been Congregational preaching since 1849. The Sunday school was organized about 1860. Mr. Smith gave the congregation the land on which to build their church and assisted them to build it. He was the first Judge of Probate in Grand Traverse and Leelanaw counties, holding the office for many years.

One of the problems faced by the early settlers was the education of their children. The schools were primitive, and wherever possible, the young people were sent to higher institutions of learning in the

southern part of the state, or in the East. George N. Smith, Jr., son of the missionary, was born in 1832 and came with his family to Leelanaw county as a child. He entered Olivet College, in southern Michigan in 1855 and graduated in 1858. Twice during this time Mr. Smith made the journey from Northport to Grand Rapids on foot by trail, carrying his pack of blankets, books and provisions on his back. One of these journeys was made on snow shoes.

The Methodist church of Northport was organized in 1858 by the Rev. Lewis Griffin. Services were held in the school house. In 1859 the Rev. S. Steele came as Presiding Elder, and soon afterward Mrs. Steele organized a Sunday school with forty scholars, which has continued to the present time.

In 1870 Rev. Mr. Steele became the resident pastor, preached the first year without compensation, and gave \$200 toward the building of a church. The year previous the Rev. Matthias had succeeded in building a shanty on the hill for a place of worship. Being an Englishman, he called it a chapel, but the rest of the town called it a wigwam. The cornerstone of the new church was laid in May, 1871. Mr. Steele was born in 1812 and at an early age was licensed as a local preacher. Later he became an ordained minister and then a presiding elder.

Chapter 4

THE PIONEER LINDLEYS

Albert Eliada Lindley, a vigorous, black-eyed, black-haired, ruddy-faced young man, had an aggravated case of "Spring Fret," a disease widely prevalent in the early 19th Century, and which manifested itself mainly in an "itching foot" that pointed westward. In his early days he traveled over Pennsylvania and Indiana, and then established a temporary home in Ohio, near what is now Warren.

A story is told of his prowess as a hunter. A man came to the log cabin one day inquiring for Mr. Lindley.

"He is out hunting but will be home soon," said his wife. "He just shot a deer."

"How do you know?" asked the astonished man.

"I just heard a shot, and he never misses."

The "wandering foot" again troubled him, and Mrs. Lindley went to stay with her father, Levi Wyman. The first word from Mr. Lindley was a letter written from "Salem Henry Co Iowa Jan 31st, 1846," and addressed to his "Dear & honored Companion & Wife." It was written on a double sheet of paper, with the message on three pages and the fourth folded to form the envelope, and addressed to "Mr. Levi Wyman, Newburg, Warricke Co., Ind." At the bottom of the envelope is the notation, "Pennsville, O, Feb. 27." In the upper right hand corner is the figure "10", evidently the amount of postage paid. Punctuation never irked him, and Webster's dictionary had not been written when he went to school. He wrote:

"I am in Salem . . . I got as far as Hannibal Mo on the river & was stoped by the ice I left my box there untill I could go on in the spring I am about 200 miles from Galena hope soon to go there for the river is breaking up at this time & probably will soon be clear of ice . . . I have had my health tolerably well since I left you . . . I am determined to rove untill I am satisfied of a good place to come back to & live on . . . I think that will never be as long as there is so mutch better territory yet unsettled in these western parts. Here are farms already cleared for the plough without grubing and chopping of which I have already done to mutch for my good & more than I ever expect to do again I would like to see my lovely little girls . . . This country is bound to be a fine country it cannot be otherwise for the chances it has over indiana . . . I want David to go to Gardners & get some of them cider crabs & graft them without fail . . ."

Another letter, written on April 25, 1846, was also addressed to Levi Wyman, Newbury, Warrick Co., Ind. On the left side is written, "Salem I. T., May 2." "I. T." was the abbreviation for Indiana Territory. He wrote:

"I am yet in the territory & expect to stay here some four weeks yet if I do not hear from him (his brother Thomas) I shall go to Galena or Missouri to work in the mines for wages are good in both places from \$1 to \$1.25 per day . . . I have not made much since I came here I have earnt about fifty dolars but have not got it yet only enough of it to pay my way . . . People have just begun to plough a little now."

Mr. Lindley did return to Ohio and settled down quietly, but not for long. He and his family set out in a horse-drawn covered wagon for Wisconsin. A little colt trotted trotted alongside. The way was rough, and the colt's tender hoofs cracked and became sore. Mr. Lindley stopped the horses, got out some leather and made shoes to slip over the colt's hoofs. The little creature made the rest of the journey in shoes and in comfort.

The family settled near Baraboo, Wisconsin, where the first son, Levi Wyman Lindley, was born in 1854, one hundred years ago. It was a wild region, beset with dangers. One day the baby boy was sitting on the floor when his sisters were horrified to see a rattlesnake crawl into his lap. Asenath was too terror-stricken to move, but Lavinia seized a hoe and killed the reptile.

The Gold Rush

The Gold Rush was on. It is easy to see how it would affect a man like Mr. Lindley. A letter from his nephew, John H. Lindley, written from Burton, Ohio, on June 4, 1860, says:

"I am sorry that it is such hard times in Wis. as to Discourage you so much you speak of going to California. Now Uncle you are much older than I am and ought to know more than I do about

this mater. But Uncle if you are a reader of newspapers you certainly know that there is more that goes there and comes back dissatisfied . . . than do well. Many goes there and want to come back But can't get money enough to come back with. I have an acquaintance there I had a letter from him about five weeks ago in which he said that he was 'geting 50 dollars per month.' 'But,' said he 'I can lay up more money in Ohio at twenty dollars per month than I can at fifty here . . . We read of the emigrants from the Eastern States to this State from the year 1854 to the year 1859 one third of them has died within one year of their arrival and more than one fourth of the same have returned to their Respectfull homes within six months of their arrivall . . .

"The gold mines are about up there. There is now and then occasionally a new mine discovered but as fast as they are discovered there is plenty of rich men to purchase them, thus leaving no chance for the poor man . . . I for my part would as Lives be where I am to find employment as in Cal. and what is more I don't want you to go there . . . I should like to have you go to Mich. . .

"I should not advise you to move here for there is no chance here for Labor. It will not bring enough to furnish a family in salt and land is to high here to think of purchasing a farm. Land is selling from thirty to fifty dollars per acre the very poorest of land brings \$30."

Thwarted in his desire to go California, Mr. Lindley's wandering foot pointed east to Michigan, the fabulous lumber country. There, at the age of fifty, he began a career of "grubing and chopping" such as he had probably never endured before.

Levi Lindley's Story

The history of the family from this point is given in the words of Levi W. Lindley, the son, taken from an interview with him on July 27, 1927:

"We came to Michigan in 1860, arriving in Northport, and stayed at Deacon Dame's hotel for a couple of days. Then we moved into a house at Omena, which was called New Mission at that time. Father cut cordwood for Lewis Miller, and my sister Asenath worked in his home. My eldest sister, Lavinia, taught the first school at the Bight of the Bay, below Northport.

"In the spring of 1861 we moved by boat from Northport to Suttons Bay and went to the old homestead half a mile south. There were only two houses in Suttons Bay, those of Gershon Porter and H. C. Sutton. George Walter was here too and had one of the two cows in the country.

"The first store in Suttons Bay was kept by W. J. Sweet, who came from Sanilac county, Michigan, and cut cordwood for Sutton

the first winter he was there. In the spring he built a little store and kept it until both he and Sutton sold out to Herbstritt.

"Carr and Durbin built the second store, and the first saw mill, and cut and shipped wood. Antoine Mauseau, Jr., had a grist mill north of Suttons Bay before we came here. The Dearwoods, another French family, lived about a mile north of town and their daughter Jennie was the second white child born in the township.

"Father made the first shoes in Suttons Bay for us children and for Bates. The first regular shoemaker in the village was Hiram Cook.

"We lived in Suttons Bay for a while, then sold out, and Father, Anne and Tom went to Ohio for about a year. The rest of us stayed at Mebert's. When father came back he worked one summer at Hawkins', and in the fall we moved to a little house on Core's farm and stayed there two years. We cut wood and cleared land for Mr. Core, a Civil War veteran.

"Then we went to the old homestead, west of the State road, not far from Mebert's, and stayed there until father died. The log house burned the winter I was in the hospital in Ann Arbor, 1885 or 1886. Mother went to Mebert's for a time, stayed with us for a while, and then moved to Bingham and stayed with Tom until she died.

The Civil War

"The second probate judge of Leelanaw county, Lorenzo D. Quackenbush, lived a mile east of Suttons Bay, with Erastus, Sam, and Asher Bates his near neighbors. Quackenbush had three grown sons who went to the Civil War and were never heard from again except one who returned on a furlough. A son-in-law, Tom Lawson, also went to the war and was never heard from again, so Mr. Quackenbush took care of his family. Melville Palmer came back.

"Evered Winnie enlisted at the beginning of the war and was never heard from again. Joe Warwick, who was engaged to Lavinia, built a log house, still standing, south of Hawkins', on the bay shore. He went to the war and never came back. Asenath and James R. Lee were married before he went to the war. Their little girl was born and died before he came home, safe and sound. Sweet and Joe Dearwood were drafted and hired substitutes for \$500 each. Then the war ended and the men they sent never shouldered a gun.

"I was staying with Mebert's on the Joe Warwick place when the news came that Lincoln had been shot. At that time they were hewing the logs for Mebert's house. Father was a strong Republican and liked to talk with Mr. Quackenbush. He came up to where we were making maple sugar and said:

" 'Have you heard the good, bad news?'

" 'No.'

" 'Richmond is taken.'

" 'Father said, 'That is the end of the war.'

" 'And Lincoln has been shot,' said Quackenbush sorrowfully.

Hardships Endured

"Times were hard during the war. We paid \$50 a barrel for salt pork and \$15 a barrel for flour, \$1 a pound for tea, and fifty cents for coffee. We lived on corn meal Johnnycake for a whole month for we had no money to buy anything. We had raised a little wheat and took it to be ground into flour. We had just a little clearing and could not raise enough to support the family. Father and I cut cordwood for years at Suttons Bay, on our own place, and all around. Pork, potatoes and bread were the staple foods.

"All the work was done with ox teams. The first horses were brought in by John Groesser, Sr. When he was drowned, while loading lumber at Lees Bay, the horses were sold to Sutton at once. Louis, John and Jacob Groesser each brought a cow with him when they came. Andrew Palmer went to Ohio and got a couple of cows, and brought in a yoke of cattle at the same time.

"After or during the war the Groessers and Steimels came to Suttons Bay and settled on farms, as did the Deusters and the Schaub.

"There were no roads between Suttons Bay and Traverse City at all, only an Indian trail where the Indians carried mail on snow shoes in the winter, and in moccasins in the summer. We got mail once in two weeks during the war. The first road was cut through between Traverse City and Suttons Bay in 1862, during war time, just underbrushed out so they could get through. That was the old State road. Father was working on the State road when Lee's little girl died at our house, near Suttons Bay, and Anne, Tom and I went to tell him.

All freight was brought from Traverse city by coat. The wood-burning steam boats landed at Northport, and much cordwood was shipped on them. Nearly all the sailing vessels carried freight and wood. Steam boats carried propeller wood for their own use, and tan bark. After the new saw mills were built, they began to carry lumber.

"Mr. Cumberworth went to Traverse City in a skiff for the mail. William Mebert went to Traverse City and carried a bag of flour home on his back. Martin Olson came to the neighborhood the same year I went on my place, 1876. When he was working in Pellston, some seventy or eighty miles from Traverse City, he would take a hundred-pound bag of flour on his back, walk to Traverse City, and then the ten miles to his hime in Keswick. After spending the week-end with his family, he walked back to work.

"There were a lot of Chippewa Indians around Suttons Bay and I used to play with the children, shooting chipmunks. I could shoot a bow and arrow as well as any Indian. The children were full of fun, wrestled, played ball, hunted, and the like.

Household Furniture

"When we lived at Omena we had one chair and some benches. We never used a fireplace but had a cook stove with cast iron pots and a pewter teakettle. I remember the first chair father bought of Lewis Miller. We have it at the house yet.

"We had an iron coffee mill, a square box, turned by hand. We raised chicory, which grows like a parsnip or a carrot, cut it into square chunks, roasted it, and made coffee out of it. Later we roasted wheat and made coffee of that. There were no stores at first where we could buy food. We bought fish from the Indians some times, but mostly lived on pork and salt beef.

"Father killed wild game occasionally, partridge and squirrels. There were many wild pigeons which nested at Charlevoix and flew back and forth to our county like clouds over the sun. They flew a long time in the morning and again in the evening. Sweet used to throw clubs up at the pigeons and kill them that way. They had a fine flavor when made into pot pie.

"I used to catch a lot of brook trout after I was big enough. There were deer, bear, foxes, rabbits, and a few wild cats. Lije Porter was a deer hunter, and I killed a bear near Bingham. The first year I was on my place the foxes killed nearly the entire flock of chickens one day. There were ravens also, larger than crows, and which made a different sound.

"When we built houses the logs were hewed down to the right size, chinked with basswood puncheons, and then plastered with lime and mortar. When we could not get lime we used clay.

"Father was the only doctor around Suttons Bay when we came. He used herbs, pulled teeth, and bled people with an artery lance. He had saddle bags filled with remedies I do not know about.

"We had a sort of primary school at Suttons Bay in a little log house, which taught nothing much except spelling, reading and writing. The term was about three months at first. My sister Lavinia was my first teacher. She never had an opportunity to get much schooling but taught herself mostly, learning as she taught, and reading much. Miss Timblin taught the next term, and Miss Sarah E. Alward, later Mrs. Melville Palmer, taught the two following terms.

"Mr. Sutton, a Methodist, was the first superintendent of the Sunday school held in the little log school house by Andrew Palmer's place, near Peck's farm. I went to Sunday school there, and so did many of

the children in what is now Keswick. Ministers of different denominations came occasionally and preached.

"The first preacher in Keswick was Frederick Allert, who lived on the farm later sold to John Weiss. He belonged to no church and seemed not to believe in church organization. The Evangelical Association sent a minister, the Rev. W. H. Hess, which made Mr. Allert angry. But the church was organized and services have been held regularly ever since.

Post Office Opened

"The Keswick post office was established on September 17, 1889, with Mrs. Mebert as the first postmistress. Martin Olson was next in charge, acting until the post office was discontinued on November 15, 1910, when rural free delivery from Suttons Bay was inaugurated.

"When the post office was opened in Suttons Bay on August 27, 1861, we got our mail there. Whoever went to Suttons Bay on Saturday got the mail for the neighborhood and distributed it at church or Sunday school on Sunday morning.

"The Bingham post office was opened on November 26, 1878, with Mr. Porter as the first post master. Then it went to the Darrow's, who kept a store in front of Core's, and then to Bingham, with Fred McFall as post master. Afterward it was moved to Mike Oberlin's store, where it stayed until rural free delivery was established on May 31, 1908.

"The Keswick school district was formed about the time that Suttons Bay township was divided, Bingham township being taken from it and divided into school and road districts and similar subdivisions.

"Mr. Sutton had the first frame house in Suttons Bay. The first frame house in Keswick was built by Mr. Allert. Louis and Jacob Groesser built the first frame houses on the State road, and the others followed quickly. Meberts built in 1886, and I built in 1888.

"When we moved on to a farm we cut the trees and built a log house among the stumps. Then we cleared more land, planted potatoes, wheat when the potatoes were out, and then seeded it to grass. Then we planted corn on it, and put oats on the corn stubble. We kept clearing and burning in the summer, and cutting cordwood and logs in the winter. When we got enough land cleared so it could be spared from the annual crops, we set out orchards, apples, peaches, pears, and cherries. Now the orchards are practically all of cherries.

"We used to ride in lumber wagons, and later there were buggies, lighter vehicles. Meberts had the first one. Some were literally 'surreys with a fringe on top,' with several seats, and others were one seated top buggies. The one owned by Frederick Richter was upholstered in green plush.

"The first horse was 'Old Jack,' owned by Evered Winnie, and Mr. Sutton owned the first team in the vicinity of Suttons Bay. Mrs. Mebert and Mrs. Sutton wanted to go to Northport one day and

borrowed Old Jack. He was very slow and they wanted to hurry him, but had no whip. So they got out and pulled some rye straw and hit him with that, and he ran to beat the band!

"Meberts had the first telephone in Keswick, put in about 1900. John Groesser (son of Louis) had the first phonograph. Jacob F. Groesser, his brother, introduced photography into the neighborhood.

"The general health of the people was good. Mother and father were both quite healthy, although father had rheumatism at times. They were rugged stock in those days, with better health than people have now. When they needed a doctor they got one from Traverse City. Mr. Frederick Allert was a sort of homeopathic doctor but did not practice much. Mrs. Mebert also used homeopathic medicines, and was the neighborhood doctor and midwife for years.

How We Dressed

"The women wore calico dresses, and the men bought grain bags and had trousers made from them. Mr. Hurlbut wore them. I did too. Kentucky jeans, a thick, heavy pants cloth, was used also. Mother made all my clothes, shirts, caps, coats, trousers, mittens, socks. Father made the boots. I never had an article of clothing that was not home made until I earned it myself.

"We used to make caps out of woodchuck and squirrel skins. The women braided straw and made big Shaker bonnets of it. Skirts were long and full, and basques tight. The German women brought clothes from Germany, also a lot of cloth which they made up here. We paid ten or twelve cents a yard for calico. Generally it cost four or five cents a yard, but during the war it was expensive. Any one who paid fifty cents or a dollar a yard for material was getting very extravagant. The shoes were home-made, the stockings home-knit. The women wore hoops about that time, but I do not think my mother or sisters ever wore them." (They did, although a small boy did not notice nor remember).

Mr. Lindley was skilled with tools and built or helped to build many of the houses and barns in the vicinity. He also developed expertness as a cabinet-maker and made many pieces of furniture, including cedar chests.

He was township treasurer for a number of years, also director of schools and highway commissioner.

Chapter 5

EARLY MEDICAL CARE

The first doctors in the vicinity of Suttons Bay were herb doctors, A. E. Lindley, Frederick Allert, and Mrs. Mebert. To the herbs, the last-named two added homeopathic medicines. While no record is avail-

able of the herbs used, they were no doubt the same as those used in other places and times, and knowledge of whose healing virtues had seeped down to the people.

Many brewed their own teas of peppermint, spearmint, sage, and the catnip beloved of babies. Sassafras was commonly used. Smartweed had a good reputation, and mullein leaves were believed to cure disorders of the lungs in man or beast.

Licorice roots were chewed for their flavor, and when used to make candy, were thought to be good for colds. The bark of tender twigs of the birch tree were delicious to chew, whether medicinal or not.

Juice from the leaves and the entire plant of the closed or bottle gentian possessed the highest medical virtues. Joe Pye weed, or purple boneset, cured typhus and other ills. There was a belief that whorled loosestrife had a pacifying effect on animals, and also on humans. The foxglove, which contains digitalis, was used for heart trouble.

Devil's paintbrush or orange hawkweed, was so called from an ancient belief that hawks ate the plant to sharpen their eyesight, and naturally it would do the same for man.

Common yarrow was used to heal wounds. Legend has it that it was used to heal the wound in Achilles heel in the Trojan war. In England it was believed that chewing the leaves would cure toothache.

Boneset, or thoroughwort, was believed to aid in uniting fractured bones. An infusion from the leaves was reputed to be good for the dengue or "break-bone fever." Tea made from the dried leaves was a standard home remedy for colds and fevers, or for warding off such ills.

Gold circles worn as ear rings were supposed to help weak eyes. Richard Hurlbut wore them for years, as did Mrs. Amelia Weiss Groesser.

Some children wore fetty (asofetida) bags around their necks, under parental duress, to ward off disease, but were apologetic about it.

MEDICAL DOCTORS

Among the early physicians was Dr. Collins Johnston, who lived in Suttons Bay in the early 80's, and conducted a Sunday school for a time when he first began to practice there. Dr. George W. Fralick, who lived at Maple City, took pride in answering all calls promptly. Dr. Francis J. Fralick later practiced in Northport, but appears to have been active in Suttons Bay when first coming here. On the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of Dr. Robert D. Flood's coming to Northport, he was honored by a testimonial dinner for the place he had won for himself as a professional and civic leader. Dr. D. O. C. Joslin had his office in P. C. Goldsmith's drug store in Suttons Bay. Dr. James Brady had his office on a farm near Leland, and made a specialty of answering emergency calls sent by telegraph out of the Leland office.

One of the prominent physicians of Suttons Bay, Dr. Joseph F. Slepica, died at the early age of 47. Another doctor of that region was E. C. Van de Walker. Dr. R. W. Raftschol was the dentist in Suttons Bay for three years. He was followed by Dr. H. C. Thomas, who was also deeply interested in his cherry farm. Dr. W. M. Payne practiced in Suttons Bay for many years, and he and his wife now lie buried in Maple Grove cemetery, in Keswick.

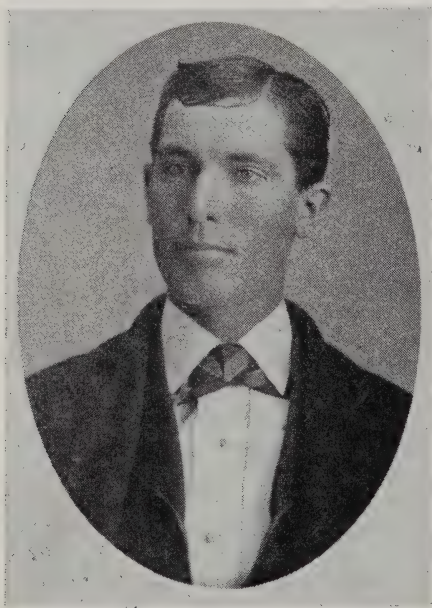
Dr. S. P. Smiseth, a native of Suttons Bay, served two years in the Navy in World War I. After graduation from the University of Michigan Medical School he returned to his home town to practice. Dr. King, who had a dispensary in Traverse City, did much work in Bingham. Dr. C. I. Ellis, and Dr. E. J. Bolan, the present physicians with offices in Suttons Bay, have a county-wide practice.

Chapter 6

SUTTONS BAY

A hundred years ago Harry C. Sutton sailed slowly up the uncharted waters of Grand Traverse bay and kept a sharp lookout on the western shore. It was thickly wooded, but no outstanding feature appeared until he came to a deep indentation, about four or five miles deep and about two miles wide, forming a sheltered arm of the bay. It looked like an ideal spot for a settlement. Soundings

showed that the water was deep enough to float any steamer on the lakes, and its location protected it from storms. This was the spot he had been looking for.



Mr. Sutton

Mr. Sutton, keen-eyed resourceful, energetic, began work. He built a house, and so did Gershon Porter, and the town of Suttonsburg was on its way. Not until later was the more euphonious name of Suttons Bay adopted. A lumbering business was established and flourished for many years.

After a school was established, Mr. Sutton taught for two terms in the little log school house. He was superintendent of the first Sunday school. He was active in all civic affairs, and as the town continued to grow these became more important. Later

when Father Herbstritt came with his plans for a Pleasant City, Mr. Sutton sold out his interests and moved to Minneapolis, Kansas. He always remembered his old friends and his town, and in a letter written to Melville Palmer in 1902 he spoke of them with affection and appreciation.

Suttons Bay was always broad-minded in including among its citizens people who lived some distance out on farms. For instance, there was Melville Palmer, who was born in Ohio in 1843 and came to Suttons Bay in 1859. He enlisted in the Civil War as a member of Company A, 26th Regiment, Michigan Infantry, volunteers, served three years, and was honorably discharged. He returned to Suttons Bay in 1865, and married Sarah Elizabeth Alward in 1866. Mrs. Palmer wrote about their home near Suttons Bay:

"My husband got the land which we are on and paid for it while in the Civil War. He came home in '65. I was teaching here at the time, and it took us only one year to make up our minds to go farming. After he got the logs all ready and the shingles made, a fire passed over and burnt up the shingles and blackened the logs, but he made some more shingles and built the house. In the spring of '66 we were married, and in the fall we moved into our house on the place where we are now living.

"We moved out of the log house into the new one a long time ago, but I want the old log house to remain on the place as long as I stay, for although we have had our share of sorrows, we also spent many happy days there. When we wanted to make a visit he hitched up the oxen to the wagon and we went, and we enjoyed the visit too. Now we are getting old and gray, but I would not trade our farm for any I know of."

During war times there was an influx of Germans into the region. George Steimel, born in Germany, came to Suttons Bay in 1864, and lived on a farm until 1874, when he built the Bay House hotel in the town and conducted the business for many years. A feed and livery stable run in connection with the hotel furnished transportation to the guests. He also ran a saloon.

George Steimel, Jr., spent most of his life farming until 1874, when he entered the mercantile business, and then opened a drug store. He was township treasurer for several terms, and also county clerk.

Another branch of the family was represented by John Steimel, who was born in Canada and came to Suttons Bay with his parents in 1863 when he was two years old. When they first came, there were only vast woods and few buildings. The Indian trail between Traverse City and Northport was the principal road, passing through Suttons Bay on what is now St. Mary's Street. Mr. Steimel lived on what was later the Lee, and then the Sanborn place, five miles south of town, and attended school and catechism class in Pashabatown. He traveled the distance of nine miles every morning and evening on foot.

Another prominent family was that of the Deusters. John Deuster was born in Wisconsin in 1851 and came to Suttons Bay in 1867 with his parents. He homesteaded a claim in 1871, and later entered into the merchandising business with his father and brother Hubert. Afterward he opened a saloon, and built the Park Hotel. In 1902 he was elected sheriff of the county. He had been highway commissioner of Suttons Bay township, township treasurer, and when the village was organized in 1898, was the first village treasurer and a member of the council.

The first Western Union telegraph office in Suttons Bay was operated by Michael A. Heuss from his own home. He was a carpenter by profession, born in Germany in 1835, and came to Suttons Bay in 1871. He married Alice Lee, sister of James R. Lee. He was supervisor of the township of Bingham for two terms, clerk for several terms, and held other offices. He and George Steimel built a planing mill in 1884.

The Norwegians Come

Another wave of immigration came from Norway, and many of Suttons Bay's finest citizens came from that country. Louis (Lars) E. Bahle came early, and opened a store which is still flourishing. His son, Captain Esten Bahle, was born in the town in 1881. As a young boy Esten spent many hours watching the sailing vessels ply the bay, and at sixteen he started sailing as a wheelsman and lookout. He began work for the Pere Marquette line in the car ferries in 1905. He was one of the few men who sailed the lakes the year around, and the first to set a record of over 1,000 crossings of Lake Michigan. He retired in 1939, returning just once, and that was to bring the City of Midland on her first run from Milwaukee to Ludington.

Another sailor was Captain J. C. Anderson, who was born in Norway in 1830 and sailed salt water from the time he was ten. He became master of a vessel when he was twenty-two. In 1879 he bought the Union Hotel in Suttons Bay. It was near enough to the bay to permit its cool breezes to soothe a captain who no longer sailed.

An energetic native of Norway was Louis (Lars) R. Sogge, born in 1862, who came to Leelanaw county in 1884. For a number of years he was employed on a farm, and then purchased an interest in the Leland Lumber Co. He opened a general store in Suttons Bay in 1899. He was township supervisor for several years and then county treasurer. He was also treasurer of Leland township for two years.

There was a considerable settlement of Norwegians north of Suttons Bay, all good farmers and good citizens. Among them were Andrew and Julianna Solem, who left Norway in 1872, when their son Louis was a year old. They lived near Leland until 1880, when they purchased a farm near Suttons Bay, which Louis later owned and operated most successfully. The senior Solems celebrated their Golden Wedding in 1937 amid much rejoicing.

Lars J. Gronseth came to Suttons Bay in 1886 and opened a shoe store which he ran for many years, and which is still in the family. Ruffi and Kehl operated a meat market and bought many beef cattle and other animals from the farmers. Litney and Steimel had a farm implement and hardware store, and in addition bought logs and cordwood. Marcus Hoyt moved to Suttons Bay in 1898 and opened a drug store. He served two terms in the Legislature.

Several prominent school men lived in Suttons Bay. Elmer J. Peck, born in 1858, came to Suttons Bay in 1887, where he became a bookkeeper for W. S. Johnson & Co. He taught school in Leland and in Northport, and then was elected county commissioner of schools, serving several years.

John O. Duncan came to Suttons Bay in 1896, where he was superintendent of schools for four years, and then served as county school commissioner for a number of years. He had a highly developed fraternal sense, for he belonged to the Odd Fellows, the Masons, Royal Arch Masons, and the Maccabees.

The Suttons Bay post office was opened on August 27, 1861. During the Civil War delivery was made once a week, but later it was served by a daily stage. Rural free delivery was begun on Route No. 1 on February 15, 1905, and was served for over thirty years by Lars P. Bolme. The following year rural free delivery was instituted on Route No. 2, to Keswick and adjacent territory, which was served for thirty-four years by Paul Mork.

A number of Irish families lived east of Suttons Bay and called their settlement Donnybrook. Among those who have lived there for many years are the Livingstons, the Sends, and the Kaleys. William Murray, born in 1849, came to Leelanaw county in 1872 and settled on a farm. He was supervisor of the township for three terms, was a Justice of the Peace, and held other offices.

The Early Churches

Missionaries always came with the settlers and shared their fortunes or hardships. Rev. and Mrs. Helms, the first Protestant ministers in Suttons Bay, lived in the third house built in that town, twelve feet square. It contained a bed, a table, and a barrel of unpacked dishes. Chairs were hung on pins in the wall. No further information about these pioneers could be obtained.

The Catholic Church

The Catholic church was on the ground early, and its priests covered a wide range of territory in ministering to the whites and the Indians. After a time a charge was established at Provemont (Lake Leelanaw), and the priest also served the mission at Suttons Bay. In 1905, Suttons Bay became an independent parish.

About 1870, Father A. Herbstritt made a purchase of 6,000 acres of land and laid out a village which he called Pleasant City. He planned

to establish a Catholic college and convent and many secular kinds of business, but did not succeed except that he did build a church and establish a school.

The following priests have served the Suttons Bay church:

1864-1869	RT. REV. IGNATIUS MRAK	1899-1905	REV. F. H. RUESSMANN
1869-1770	REV. ANDREW HERBSTTRIT	1905-1907	REV. A. D. ENGEMANN
1870-1877	REV. PHILLIP ZORN	1907-1917	REV. JOSEPH FRANZEN
1877-1883	REV. GEORGE ZIEGLER	1917-	REV. C. VANCOLIN
1883-1885	REV. JOSEPH NIEBLING	1917-1929	REV. TIMOTHY KROBOTH
1885-1889	REV. JOSEPH BAUER	1929-1930	REV. ALBERT A. KEHREN
1889-1891	REV. CHARLES VOTYPKA	1930-1931	REV. DAVID DRINAN
1891-	REV. JOHN D. ENGEMANN	1931-1933	REV. JOHN SYDLOWSKI
1891-1895	REV. F. H. RUESSMANN	1833-	RT. REV. CHARLES D. BAKER
1895-1899	REV. ALEX F. ZUGELDER		

The First Lutheran Church

Among the early settlers of Leelanaw county were Norwegians, who brought their religion with them to the new country. Each family conducted its own "church service" on Sunday, but this did not satisfy them. On August 24, 1874, they met to organize a congregation, which resolved to hold fast to the old Lutheran teaching that the Bible was the source of truth, learning and life, and to unite with the Norwegian Synod.

Esten L. Bahle and Paul Hansen were elected deacons and Lars E. Bahle secretary. In addition, Niels Einarsen, Osmond Olsen, John Torsen, Lars Christiansen, and Martin Pedersen were made voting members, a total of eight.

The group was not large enough to support a pastor, so in 1874 they called on the Rev. M. P. Ruh to serve it four times a year. The following pastors have served the church:

1874-1876	<i>Part time</i> REV. M. P. RUTH	1918-1938	REV. G. GULDBERG
1876-1879	<i>Part time</i> REV. A. R. RYSTAD	1938-1945	REV. E. G. UNSETH
1879-1882	<i>Part time</i> REV. ABEL ANDERSON	1945-1949	REV. R. M. BRANSTAD
1882-1918	REV. JOHN J. MAAKSTAD	1949-	REV. NEIL HILTON

Mr. Maakstad was a pioneer pastor with charges covering most of northern Michigan. During his pastorate of nearly thirty-six years in Suttons Bay, he served congregations in Leland, North Manitou Island, Port Oneida, Donnybrook, Empire, Glen Arbor, Northport, Good Harbor, Duncan City (Marquette county), Frankfort, Wallin (Benzie county), Elk Rapids, St. Ignace, East Jordan, Ironton, Boyne City, and Traverse City. In order to carry on this extensive mission work, Pastor Maakstad was given an assistant, Rev. H. S. Rue, who served from 1895 to 1905.

The church building was erected in 1886, and the basement was added in 1899. The Ladies Society was organized in 1889 and did much charity work in addition to work for the congregation, such as purchasing the organ and other church furnishings. The Men's Club provides a program of Christian knowledge and service.

Parish schools have been conducted from the early days, but Sunday school did not become popular until later.

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Differences on doctrinal matters arose in the First Lutheran Church, and part of the group withdrew and formed the Immanuel Lutheran Church, which was more liberal in its views. The group met in a building in the town for some time before they were officially organized in June, 1890.

Among the organizers, with Rev. O. C. Berseth, were: L. E. Bahle, Andrew Olsen, L. J. Gronseth, Mrs. Olava Hanson, Lars Johnson, Otto Mork, Halvor Nelson, Einer Setterbo, Arnt Holton, Knute Setterbo, Einer Everson, F. E. Smiseth, Johannes Telstad, and Andrew Halstad.

The following pastors have served the congregation:

1890-Organizer	REV. O. C. BERTH	1918-1922	REV. G. GULDBERG
1890-1891	REV. M. MIKELSON	1922-1927	REV. N. B. URSIN
1891-Summer	REV. A. P. LEAS	1929-1931	REV. K. R. TORVIK
1890-1896	REV. O. H. STENSON	1931-1935	REV. HANS MAGELSON
1896-1899	REV. L. C. JOHNSON	1935-1938	REV. H. F. J. ELLINGSON
1899-1901	REV. N. N. ESSER	1938-1944	REV. A. R. NELSON
1902-1916	REV. A. J. RAFTSCHOL	1945-1947	REV. OLAF G. BORGE
1916-1918	REV. G. O. FJESETH	1947-1948	REV. GRANT CARLSON
1918-Summer	REV. B. SALVERSON	1948-	REV. PHILIP A. FRETHEIM

The Congregational Church

A meeting to organize an English Christian society was held on February 7, 1896. Mr. John Cadham was chosen chairman, and Mrs. Laura Voice, secretary. A canvass of the territory was suggested, and it was found that there were about forty families who were not members of either of the churches in the village. It was decided unanimously to organize a Christian society, with the following charter members: Anzi W. Alward, Dr. Francis J. Fralick, Bessie Bruce Fralick, John Cadham, Annie Service Cadham, Elmer Jason Peck, Elizabeth Ann Williams Peck, Eurania Ann Palmer Peck, and Mamie Bartlett Smith. Before the turn of the century twenty-three other members were added to the roll. Services were held in the school house for about a year.

Four months after the first meeting, in June, 1896, a council of neighboring Congregational churches was convened in Suttons Bay to provide recognition of, and to formally organize the new church. Churches represented in the Council included those of Omena, Northport, Traverse City, Solon, Maple City, Lake Ann, Benzonia and Copemish. Deacon John White, of Solon, took a prominent part in helping to organize the only English speaking church in the town.

A formal corporate organization under the Michigan State laws was completed in February, 1898. Signers of the articles of incorporation were John Cadham, Mrs. Annie Cadham, Mrs. Eurania Peck, Mrs. Elizabeth A. Peck, and Elmer J. Peck.

At a special meeting called on January 27, 1898, the moderator announced that Jacob Ruffi, Irvin Livingston, and John Cadham had purchased two lots on the corner just east of Immanuel Lutheran

Church; that they had paid one hundred dollars for said lots; and that they will give them to the First Congregational church of Suttons Bay as soon as it makes arrangements to build a church thereon. A canvass was made to raise funds to erect a church building. The record shows that the first annual meeting to be held in the church was on December 17, 1899. The pastors have been the following:

1896-	REV. WILLIAM H. HURLBUT	DR. L. G. HURLBUT, and
	REV. SHERMAN L. DIVINE	1921-1929 REV. J. H. JOWETT
1900-1901	REV. J. A. BARNES	1929-1933 REV. D. F. BODDER
1901-1904	REV. P. R. LARSON	1934-1935 REV. G. W. PUNTER
1904-1913	REV. THOMAS E. BENNETT	1939-1940 REV. THOMAS E. BENNETT
1913-1915	REV. PERCY L. PERRY	1941-1951 REV. RUSSELL PARKER
1915-1920	REV. A. A. ALLINGTON	1951-1953 REV. J. E. WINGER
1920-1921	REV. D. F. DAVIES	1954- REV. GERALD BOWEN

Two of the ministers, Rev. P. R. Larson and Rev. Thomas E. Bennett, were ordained during their ministry.

The Sunday school was organized in 1896, when Rev. Wm. H. Hurlbut, of Northport, came as the first pastor of the church. The first superintendent was E. J. Peck, who was succeeded by Mrs. C. D. Stanley in 1905, and then by Marcus Hoyt. There has always been a close tie between the Northport, Omena and Suttons Bay Congregational churches, the same pastor serving them for most of the time. The Sunday school in Omena was discontinued in 1922.

Chapter 7

THE INDIANS

Franklin Pierce was President of the United States when Christine Bamamba was born in 1857 in Leelanaw county, in the Indian village of Pashabatown. She was the first child born there after the village was founded by Father Mrak. Christine was one of the first Indian girls to learn to read and write there. Her family lived near the old Steimel dock in the Kelly woods.

At fourteen, young Christine began working for Hubert Deuster, at Suttons Bay. She went with the Deuster family to Milwaukee, and when she returned, after a number of years, married Dan Chippewa. She became one of the most skilled basket weavers of the region. She died in 1951, at the age of 94.

Most of the Indians of the county lived at Pashabatown, tended their small farms, and the squaws made baskets of basswood, sweet grass, birch bark, some trimmed with porcupine quills colored with native dyes. When a goodly number had been made the squaws loaded large packs on their backs and set out on foot through the county. The whites bought some of the baskets for cash, but the pay the Indians loved most was "kokosh," or fat pork. In the autumn the Indians husked corn for their white neighbors.

When Pashabatown was a little more than one hundred years old it dedicated a bronze marker commemorating that event. Attired in gay costumes, many of the Indians took part in the ceremony under the direction of Father Conneil, priest of the Indian mission church.

The highlight of the program was the unveiling of the monument by Mrs. Dan (Christine) Chippewa. She came reclining in a wheel chair propelled by her son, Dan, and was raised to the speakers' platform, where she pulled the cord which drew aside the American flag and revealed the bronze plaque. Chief Ben Pashaba, a direct descendant of the Chief Pashaba for whom the village was named, accepted the memorial on behalf of his people, speaking in his native language.

Afterward Mrs. Chippewa posed in her attractive Indian costume before the memorial with Father Conneil and Ben Pashaba, who wore an elaborate feather head-dress and a traditional brown buckskin costume.

Representative Albert J. Engel, member of Congress from the District, paid tribute to the Indians of Northern Michigan as citizens, with particular reference to their excellent military records during two wars. He said that Indian soldiers were among the best infantrymen, and were noted for their bravery and cunning on patrol duty.

Chapter 8

THE WILD PIGEON

The wild pigeon is extinct, but in the days of the Leelanaw pioneers these birds sailed out over Lake Michigan, darkening the sun in their flight. A large swamp was alive with them during the nesting season. The wholesale slaughter of these birds was one of the commercial pursuits of the '60s and through the '70s. The Charlevoix Sentinel of May 13, 1869, tells how it was practiced that year in northern Michigan:

"These birds are not so numerous as they were a week ago. Mr. Thomas Smith, the great pigeon catcher, is visiting this place. During the last season, with the use of eight nets, Mr. Smith caught 1,900,000 pigeons . . . in the vicinity of Grand Traverse Bay, Manistee, Pere Marquette and Pentwater. These birds were packed in barrels and shipped to Chicago, New York and Boston. Mr. Smith showed his receipt from the Fargo Express Company for 16 $\frac{1}{4}$ tons of pigeon meat."

Another peak year for the pigeon business seemed to be in 1878, when the Petoskey Democrat of that year gave a picture of what the packing house business of Mr. W. L. McCormich at Petoskey did that year.

"We have been trying this week to find out how many pigeons have been caught and shipped from this point during the past seven weeks. At the packing house of W. L. McCormich, at the time of the writing of this report, 40,000 dozen have been dressed and shipped. This is probably half of all that have been packed at Petoskey this year. Then when we take into consideration the

large number of live birds that are being shipped daily, it would — amount to fully 100,000 dozen.

"One who is not acquainted with these birds might naturally suppose that the race of pigeons would be annihilated, but there is every reason to believe that the slaughter of the birds this year is less than the number hatched out during this year's nesting season. When we say that this great nesting is nearly forty miles in length and over thirty-eight miles wide, and from ten to fifty nests on every average-sized tree, one possibly gets some faint idea of the magnitude of the number of birds which for the time are residents of the country. This sale for the May catch must have brought into this country and placed in circulation between \$30,000 and \$40,000."

Pigeon traps took the form of "bough houses," huts made of evergreens to conceal the hunters. A net was spread which looked something like a fish net, on which wheat was spread. The birds walked into the trap, and at the right moment, the hunter would spring the pole and capture the birds by the hundreds. Lots of sport for some people, but the means of exterminating the pigeon. Why the passenger pigeons disappeared completely from this region in 1881 is not known. It may be that they were caught in a storm and perished, but the prediction that they could never be annihilated went far afield.

Chapter 9

LEES BAY

One of the most beautiful sections of Leelanaw county extends along the western shore of Grand Traverse Bay, with an indentation that offered protection for the vessels which loaded cordwood and lumber in the old days. There is a magnificent view of the bay and the Peninsula to the east, while to the west is the ridge which borders Keswick. It was a favorite spot for the early settlers, and to this day is beloved for its charm.

Whether he discovered the place or not, James Lee at least gave it his name, and he lived a long and useful life there. An Englishman, he was born in 1816 and came to Detroit when he was sixteen. He returned to England in 1839 to marry Jane Ackley, and they had two children, John A. and Sarah.

Mr. Lee settled in Bingham township in 1858 and began to acquire much property along the bay. He lived in a little log house on the flat across from where the school house was later located, on the farm later owned by Ezra Sanborn and then by Oscar Sanborn, his son. He was one of the earliest fruit growers, and also introduced sheep into the neighborhood.

Mr. Lee was public spirited and held many offices. He served seven years as township supervisor, twelve years as Justice of the Peace, ten or twelve years as highway commissioner, six years as school inspector,

and held other offices. Naturally some of these offices ran concurrently! In 1875 he was elected to the State Legislature, and reelected in 1877. Later he retired and moved to Traverse City, but retirement did not suit him. He served there as highway commissioner, Justice of the Peace, and as a member of the Village Council.

James Lee's son, John A. Lee, was born in 1840 and came with his parents to Lees Bay, where he lived all his life. He married Miss Mary Weigand and they had five children, Albert, Oscar, Harry, Delia (Sanborn), and Stella (Arms). He was township treasurer for one term, and county register of deeds.

There was much cutting and hauling of cordwood, so a dock was needed at which vessels could load after bringing supplies to the settlers. Robert Lee, a cousin to James, was a good business man. He built a dock, and did much business. After some years a great storm arose and wrecked the dock, and Mr. Lee moved to Northport, where he again engaged in business enterprises.

The Dearwoods and the Kuemins

The first white child born in Suttons Bay was Jennie Sutton, and the second was Jennie Dearwood. Some authorities reverse the order of birth, but at any rate there was just a short interval between them.

Mrs. Dearwood was French, as was her husband, who was a sort of waif who made his way to America and to Detroit early in life. At the customs house the officer had difficulty with the name, and after some interchange declared, "Your name means 'dear wood' in English, and that is that I am going to put down." From that day forward it was Joseph Dearwood who came north, acquired land north of Suttons Bay, and took out the first deed in the county, Deed No. 1.

Those were war days, and General Sheridan came looking for recruits. Mr. Dearwood did not want to go to war, so hired a substitute for \$500. It was so near the close of the Civil War that his substitute never got into the service.

Robert Lee, who had moved near Pashabatown, carried Jennie Dearwood to the Indian Catholic church over the Indian trail, and Father Mrak, later a bishop, baptized her. Jennie grew up a lively, friendly, sympathetic girl. At twenty-one she married Joseph Kuemin, an amiable Swiss.

Joseph Kuemin, at nineteen, had been faced with the demand that he go into the Army for two years, which he did not want to do. He wanted to go to America. His father gave him some money and an old green trunk like a chest, and told him that if he could get out of the country he had parental permission. Joseph came across the ocean in two weeks on a sail boat, landed in New York, and then went to Fort Wayne, Indiana. He worked in a hotel, but was so shy that he could not endure the life and left.

Somewhere in his travels Mr. Kuemin met Michael Smithbauer, a German, and the two clicked. They came to Suttons Bay together and "bached it" for a time. After Mr. Kuemin's marriage, Mike stayed on for a while, then bought the old Peter Dennis farm, near Martin Johnson's place, and lived there. In his last days Mike stayed in Suttons Bay at the hotel kept by Nixie Dennis Steimel.

The Kuemins cultivated the hills of their Lees Bay farm after clearing them, drank from the cool spring which trickled down a hillside near the house, and in season ate "Apostle plums" from a dozen trees on the level land. Mr. Kuemin gave them this name because "One was enough for twelve." The trees were probably planted by the Indians.

Sunday was a great day for the family. Crowded on a lumber wagon, they made their way to mass in the Catholic church in Suttons Bay, and then came home, where their father played with the children. He was a great entertainer, they agreed.

Other early settlers were Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Palmer, who came to Lees Bay in 1858. Their daughter Ida married Jacob Weigand in 1864. In 1860, at the age of fourteen, Ida Palmer had taught the first school in Leelanaw county in a log cabin on the Peck farm southeast of Suttons Bay. She had six students, her own brother and sister, Mrs. Rastus Bates, Mrs. Sutton, and two others whose names are not of record. In 1861 she taught the winter term with twelve students. She taught the Heimforth school in 1863 with one American and fourteen German scholars.

It will be noted that there are a number of people who are credited with being "The first teacher in the county." It may not be possible to fix definitely which should receive this distinction. They were all pioneers and worthy of honor for their work in spreading the rudiments of education among the fresh green sprouts growing up in the log cabins of the vicinity.

Mrs. Hawkin's Story

In July, 1927, Mrs. William Hawkins (Jane E. McFarland) told of her early life in the county, saying:

"There was only one log house in Suttons Bay when I came, in 1857 or 1858. The wild pigeons were so thick it sounded like thunder when they were flying. This lasted for eight or nine years, and then they disappeared. They ate bechnuts and squirrel corn.

"When I married Mr. Cumberworth, we went to live in his log cabin in Lees Bay. He came from Lincolnshire, England, and wanted his parents to come over here. Second cabin passage cost \$175 then. My husband went back to Detroit and worked there while waiting to meet them, but missed them. I had had no letter, so when I had word there was one for me in Traverse City I went

for it, walking all the way and carrying my baby, Prudy. I went over the steep sand hills on Curry's and Berg's land, leaving early in the morning and getting back before sundown. An Indian trail is not even going, there are logs and sticks in the way and you have to straddle the logs or jump over them.

"There was not a single house on the way to Traverse City except a shanty by Dr. Carroll's, and that was made of logs standing on end like an old Canada fort. It had one room, about 12 by 12, with a window and a door. There was not another house until you came to Norris's and Greilick's. The old Greilick boarding house was right in the middle of what became the road afterward. There were only four white houses in Traverse City, Perry Hannah's, Cutler's, Goodell's, and another one — perhaps Hannah's boarding house or a private home. There were many slab houses on the west side.

"Business was brisk at Mr. Lee's dock, and most of the men worked there, loading lumber and cordwood. Mr. Cumberworth, was drowned in 1867 when he was caught by a vessel which swerved and pinned him under water. My baby was born six weeks after Mr. Cumberworth died, and A. E. Lindley attended me.

"In 1870 I married William Hawkins, whose first shanty was by Lasch's, in what is the road now. Later we came to this place, a beautiful location on the shore. Alice Lee stayed with me one summer. Levi Lindley built the barn across the road in 1871.

We did a good deal of quilting in those days. I had some pretty patterns, Star of Bethlehem, Wreath of Roses, Peony, and Jacob's Well. Mrs. A. E. Lindley had the Tulip, American Rose or Washington Rose, and others. I gave her the Wreath of Roses and the Peony, and she gave hers to Mrs. Mebert, who in turn gave them to Mrs. Kuemin. Great Grandmother Lee pieced a Star of Bethlehem for a wedding present, and Grandmother Lee pieced one for Martha, James Lee's daughter.

"Bloomers were worn at the time of the Civil War, four yards being required to make a pair. Asenath Lindley Lee wore them, and boots, when she went to Meberts."

The First Resorters

Leelanaw county has a reputation for being a great summer resort region, with many people coming to enjoy the superb scenery and salubrious climate. There were resorters in the old days too, but their sojourn was under different conditions. They came to work, not play, and returned home to escape the rigors of the winter climate.

Among these sojourners were Mr. and Mrs. Ephriam Foster and some of their older children, who came to Good Harbor in 1862 and worked for Mr. Kilderhouse. In 1863, Augustine Foster, a younger son

only twelve years old, came to Northport and then went to Good Harbor to help cut cordwood. The family returned to Bradford, Pennsylvania, for the winter until the elder Mr. Foster bought a farm in Benzie county.

Alexander Homan homesteaded at Kasson in 1863. He worked at loading boats in Elk Rapids, walking all that distance to work. At the end of two weeks he bought groceries and carried them to his home. His daughter Margaret was born in East Kasson, near the church. She married Augustine Foster, and after a number of moves, they settled in Bingham, where their son Clifford was born. They went to their farm in Lees Bay in 1894.

Mr. Foster was a well-digger at intervals in his farm work. He was extremely careful, for some of the wells were 200 feet deep. The curbing was put in as he went down. He looked over all his own ropes and hitches, and did not trust any harness on the horse which drew up the buckets of soil, but always bought new manila rope for this work. In his spare time Mr. Foster went fishing and then sold the fish to his neighbors.

Chapter 10

THE MEBERTS

Pioneer women had to be able to do everything, and usually did. One of the best examples of the capable, resourceful, ingenious women who pioneered Michigan and all the west, was Lavinia Lindley Mebert. With little formal education, but much reading, she fitted herself to teach school and taught for many years. She began at the Bight, near



Mrs. Lavinia Lindley Mebert

Omena, and proceeded to Suttons Bay, Bingham, and last at Keswick.

Mrs. Mebert "brought all the babies" in the neighborhood and served as community doctor for the minor ailments, particularly those of children. She had a case filled with little bottles of homeopathic remedies, and it was impressive to the small patients to see her peer sharply at the labels and select the one indicated. She knew the value of herbs and used rare plants. One youngster quite innocently picked a new flower and showed it to Mrs. Mebert. She never forgot the rebuke in the black eyes, nor the regret voiced in the simple statement, "I was saving that for medicine."

Mrs. Mebert's home was always beautiful, whether it was the old log house built in 1863 or the new frame house erected in 1886. In the new house there was a large bay window filled with plants and flowers. In the yard the "green thumb" was evidenced by masses of lilacs, snowballs, roses, and poppies which formed a flaming red border to the adjacent wheat field. In addition to the usual native forest trees there were butternut and mountrain ash (the Scotch rowan-berry) which, in the autumn, flamed with great clusters of orange-red berries.

The Meberts kept the Bingham township library, not a large one, but carefully selected. Youthful readers were gently guided to standard works and learned to appreciate them.

Mrs. Mebert was the first postmistress of Keswick, after the office was established on September 17, 1889. There was some discussion about the name, but it was settled when Rev. John A. Lawrence leaned back in his chair with a far-away look in his eyes and said, "Why not call it Keswick? That's where I was born, in Canada, and it would give me chance to end my days in a place of the same name."

Mail was carried from Traverse City to Northport daily, a distance of about thirty miles. The drivers were rugged characters. Outstanding among them were the Boston brothers, Sam and Al, colored men. Sam Boston had been caught in a storm and was so badly frozen that his legs were amputated below the knees, and his fingers were amputated to short stubs. Yet he was a good driver, who held the reins and guided the team at the fast pace required. He could swing down from the high seat, unload bags of mail or parcels of goods, stumping about on his knees, as rapidly as a man with all his members intact. It was also said that when he worked at the docks he could load more cordwood than men who were not crippled.

The post office brought some trouble to the Meberts. Every Thursday the Youth's Companion was delivered, one of the finest magazines ever published. Albert, the second son, and Mattie, the adopted daughter, both dived for the Companion, and the one who made the lucky grab held it until he had finished it. Mrs. Mebert tried to bring peace by subscribing to another magazine, but nothing could console the loser.

For a number of years Mrs. Mebert kept a grocery store in her pantry. Neighborhood children brought in dozens of eggs, or butter, and traded for groceries carefully listed by their mothers.

From an article by Ruth Craker in The Cherryland Review of January 26, 1939, compiled from information furnished by Dr. and Mrs. Albert W. Melbert, the following is taken:

William T. Mebert

William T. Mebert, a native of Saxony, Germany, born in 1830, had received a good education and training as a graduate architect. His work brought him into contact with the nobility, and he enjoyed a good

social position. But this did not give him exemption from military duty, and so in 1854 he emigrated to America. As he entered New York harbor he was struck by the sky line of the city and made an architect's drawing of it which was a family treasure for many years.

When Mr. Mebert arrived in Chicago he attended night school to learn English, and taught writing to pay his way. He acquired two acres of land in Chicago, but traded them later for a set of carpenter tools.

About that time the bakers of Chicago wanted a large quantity of ironwood as fuel, and a group of men, including Mr. Mebert, volunteered to go to northern Michigan for it. They left in a sailing vessel which was wrecked at Grand Haven. The survivors walked the entire distance back to Chicago. A second attempt was made with John Kucera and Joe Krubner, and all settled on North Manitou for one winter. They always recalled the day when a huge hemlock was being felled and went in the wrong direction, crashing through the roof of their shanty.

After the island experience, Mr. Mebert clerked for W. W. Barton at North Unity. Later Barton transferred him to Northport, where he was under the employ of a Mr. Davidson in the Fox and Ross wooding business. In 1861, while Mr. Mebert was in Northport, General Meade, of the Union Army, made a survey of the Grand Traverse region.

Among other sturdy men and women who moved to Northern Michigan about this time was the A. E. Lindley family. They had natural talents and were interested in education as well as in making a living, as befitted folk related to Governor Chittenden, of Missouri; Roscoe Conklin, a prominent attorney of New York; and John Brown, the abolitionist, of Harpers Ferry fame.



Mebert Home at Lee Bay

The Meberts Are Married

Of such stock came Lavinia Lindley, and she attracted the attention of the cultured German, William Mebert. So it came about that there was an entry in her diary on April 19, 1862, which read:

"Morning. William came up to Suttons Bay after me. (This means that the groom, employed at Northport, walked that day to Suttons Bay, going toward the head of the bay, which was always considered 'up.') We came to Mr. Miller's. (Lewis Miller, the trader.) There I dressed, we took dinner and supper there, and walked back to Mr. Daugherty's and were married. Mr. Davidson and Mrs. D. came home with us."

While she does not expressly say so, the family has always taken it for granted from the diary account that the Meberts were married in the New Mission church. The log cabin in New Mission, or Omena, which was their first home, was north of the state road about one mile from the church.

But Mr. Mebert wanted a home and a farm of his own, and they soon moved to Lees Bay and lived in the log cabin built by Joe Warwick, and there their first child, Henry Ernst, was born.

Mr. Mebert located on what was later the John Priester farm, but when the new state road was put through, he exchanged it for land on that road. Rev. George N. Smith helped him acquire the property by the use of "blind maps." The logs for the farm house were hewn from trees on the farm, and later a lean-to was built from lumber sailed up the bay from Traverse City, loaded on an ox-drawn wagon, and drawn to the foot of the hill near what was later the Girard farm. Then Mr. Mebert carried the lumber, piece by piece, up the hill on his back, drove the oxen up, reloaded the lumber, and took it to the building site.

The Indians always liked the Meberts. Old, blind Jake Tapesah lugged down quantities of beaver tails for them. Fever and ague were prevalent and Mr. Mebert often suffered from it. While his wife was teaching the Keswick school, an old aquaw would slip into the house and make him a draught of Indian tea and later report to Mrs. Mebert, "He shake, this William by the Creek." For years Mr. Mebert was known by the name, "Wiliam by the Creek."

Living was frugal. Pork cost \$1 a pound. They sliced it off with a razorsharp knife to save every ounce. They ground their own corn to make Johnny cake. Occasionally a gathering of neighbors made it necessary for Mrs. Mebert to bake ample batches of this corn bread.

Mr. Mebert always took an active interest in public affairs, holding various offices in the township. He was surveyor for two years, supervisor, highway commissioner, and Justice of the Peace for several years.

The family was especially interested in the educational problems of their day, and in the political life of the Civil War and following

years. Mr. Mebert heard the Lincoln-Douglas debate, and listened to Lincoln's speech from the Sherman House in Chicago. In the Centennial year, 1876, they planted a memorial maple tree near the road in front of their home.

As early as 1859 the Grand Traverse Herald, in the first year of its publication, told of apples grown by Rev. George N. Smith at Northport. Mr. Smith brought a few small trees with him when he came in 1849, and Mr. Mebert often went to Northport and carried back by hand the little fruit trees he wished to plant. Hon. J. G. Ramsdell, circuit judge, who came to Traverse City in 1861, established a fruit farm also and gave the Meberts plantings of the various things he grew. The Mebert land was good, with a never-failing creek running through it, so the orchards flourished.

Uncle Henry Mebert

Henry Mebert, brother to William, a chef by profession, worked in Traverse City for some years and often came to see his relatives. This was the time when the Louisiana lottery was flourishing, and Uncle Henry was one of four men who bought a ticket for \$10. When the drawing was held and the news reached Traverse City, there was great excitement. A man hitched a horse to a buggy and drove to Meberts, roused the family, and told them that Henry and his friends had won the grand prize of \$10,000 in gold bars. Of this Henry received \$2,500.

The first thing Henry said was, "William, now we can build the house." They built the house, a 15-room mansion, for \$2,200, from logs cut on the farm and drawn to Norris' mill to be cut into lumber. This was in 1885, and the house was built in 1886.

A feed mill was built at Mebert's Creek, and Mr. Mebert, Martin Olson and Levi Lindley operated it for some years. Later it was converted into a blacksmith shop, and was finally torn down in 1905.

Dr. Albert W. Mebert

Albert W. Mebert, the second son, was born in 1873. He attended rural school, went to the Traverse City high school, and in 1905 attended the Grand Rapids Veterinary College, where he graduated in 1907. He helped to organize the Leelanaw County Farmers' Institute. In 1914 he was appointed county agricultural agent by Governor Sleeper.

During World War I Dr. Mebert held the office of Food Administrator for the county. He joined the Grange in 1919. For a number of years he was a director of the Northwest Michigan Fair. He was affiliated with the F. & A. M. and the Knights Templars.

Mrs. Albert Mebert was active in women's work, acting as secretary for a time of the Woman's Section of the Farmers' Institute organized

in the basement of the first Lutheran Church of Suttons Bay. She was church organist and active in all the church organizations.

Chapter 11

LIFE IN THE WOODS

A mere recital of the major events in the life of a community does not impart its full flavor. It is the day by day happenings that count most, telling what people thought and said and did. In the highly articulate diary of Mrs. Lavinia Mebert for part of 1864 and for 1865 we find such a recital, written entirely without self-consciousness or thought that it would ever be made public. It reveals the hard work carried on, the social life, with calls breaking the monotony, the mutual helpfulness, the hospitality shown strangers who stopped at the "half-way house" for a night. Some paid their reckoning in cash, but one is recorded as giving Mrs. Mebert a pair of knitting needles and a tape needle in return for his lodging.

The ever-recurring washing, ironing, mending, sewing, cooking, baking, churning, and gardening will be taken for granted in the excerpts that follow unless some special interest attaches to them. The ink was so faded in the first part of the record of 1864 that it was illegible, but most of the rest is very clear.

1864

May 12. William went down to Mr. Cumberworth's and brought a bushel of potatoes. 15. William and I started for Suttons Bay to attend church. Everything went very pleasantly and we came home again in good spirits. Little Henry stayed at home with his uncle and was a very good boy. We saw five fresh deer tracks. 17. A letter from Ernst. (A younger brother of Mr. Mebert's who was in the Union army). 23. Little Henry's birthday, one year old. 27. James Lee came and invited William to the raising and myself to spend the day with Mrs. and Mifs Lee.

June 14. Mr. Cumberworth came and invited William and self to a quilting party at his house.

July 7. Rev. George N. Smith called. 9. Baked and sewed some on my bloomers. 18. Finished my bloomers. 22. Put ruffles on my dress. Commenced Henry's petticoat and William's overalls. Made Henry a pair of stockings. 23. William came home, brought some trees. 28. John Lee called to see William on business. 30. Dressed myself and baby and we started for the Lee's. William married Miss Mary Weigand to John Lee. We stayed until between one and two o'clock.

August 1. Little Henry taken sick this morning about 1 o'clock, kept growing worse all day. In the evening he had a very bad fit, so William and I took him down to father's. 2. Little Henry is much better... Since I wrote the above my little son has come very near to dying, but thank God, he is getting better now. Oh, how thankful I am!

Still he is not entirely well, his teeth are troubling him. I'll hope for the best. God doeth all things well.

September 1. This morning I started out for Suttons Bay, Took down medicine for Little Vinnie, but alas, poor little thing, 'Twas too late. She died about one o'clock in the afternoon. He also said, "Let the little children come unto me, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven." . . . I came home and went down to Mr. Lee's for William to make the coffin. Wrote a letter with the news of his little one's death to James. (James R. Lee was in the Union Army, and his wife, Asenath, stayed with her father, A. E. Lindley, during his absence) 2. William brought up the box, painted and lined it, and started down with it. The services were to have been at 2 o'clock, but Mr. Dougherty did not get there, so William and I had to come home before she was buried, for our own baby was sick too.

October 22. Six men stayed here all night.

1865

January 4. There were five sleighs passed today. 11. A. B. Page called here on his way to the Army. 13. We made ice cream. 15. Went up to Mr. Hurlbut's for the first time. 16. William's birthday. 23. Mr. and Mrs. Ramsdell took dinner here. 25. Fixed my hoops. Mr. and Mrs. Dougherty and Mr. and Mrs. Miller called.

February 5. Mrs. W. Steele called. 6. Commenced to wash and Mrs. Sutton came. I put my washing away and visited. 7. Commenced washing again and Miss Rose Miller Gonyan and two or three others came so of course I had to put my washing away and get dinner for them. Asenath came. After dinner I finished washing. 11. Finished embroidering a pair of drawers for Little Henry and read. 12. William and I all alone with our baby. Read and enjoyed ourselves capitally.

Sometimes there was a break in the daily routine, and Mrs. Mebert could satisfy her social needs by a visit with friends. A trip to Northport is described thus:

A Trip to Northport

February 16. Made myself and Henry ready to start for Northport. Left home about 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Arrived at Mr. Smith's about 9 o'clock in the evening. Saw Mr. Voice and Annie Smith. 17. Spent the day at Mr. Smith's. Saw Wolfe and Voice, also Eliza Willson. Had an introduction to Revd. Mr. Hollister. 18. Forenoon at Mr. Smith's, afternoon went down to Mrs. Phillips, paid a boy for carrying my sachel down. 19. Afternoon Rev. Mr. Smith called for me and Drove down to the Bight with him. Heard him preach. Saw some of my former schollars for the first time since I taught school there, three years since. They all knew me. Received an introduction to Mr. Emerson. Evening went to Methodist Church at the Hall. Rev. Mr. Boyston preached. No one remembered me there.

February 20. Mrs. P. and self rode out to Mr. Oberst's with Mr. Gagnon. Saw Mifs Esther Ranger. 21. Wrote a note to William. Called at Brabeck's, Rose's, and Campbell's stores. Called on Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Wood and Mrs. Dame. Went to church in the evening. Mr. Dame carried baby home for me. 22. Called at Mr. Reese's and found Edward Miller there ready to start home, ascertained that I could ride up as far as the Ingals' with him. Packed my things into my sachel and started. Arrived at Mr. Ingalls', received a hearty wellcome.

February 24. William came in the afternoon. Had a very pleasant time. 25. Started for home. Walked as far as the Dougherty's, then Mr. N (?) came and brought us more than half way home with horse and cutter. They were indeed very kind. Arrived about 5 o'clock and glad to be home.

Good Reading

March 6. Read and commenced braiding straw for Little Henry a hat. 13. Commenced sewing Henry's hat. 14. Finished Henry's hat, also finished reading the "Vestiges of Creation." When I visited Mrs. Ramsdell she lent me five volumes on biology, namely, Farley's, Hitchcock's, Comstock's, Hugh Miller's, and the Vestiges, and today finished reading them. 19. Father and mother came, stayed almost all day.

March 21. Read in Rolin's history. William brought four volumes from Mrs. Ramsdell. I sent the others home by William. We made the first sugar today. 25. Cut and made a pair of pants for Henry, it being my first attempt. I had good luck. 31. Stayed up where William and Henry are boiling sugar almost all day. We sugared off 55½ pounds of sugar.

April 8. William went up to Norris's Mill, brought 60 pounds of corn meal on his back. 17. Worked in the garden, sowed Larkspur annual and perennial, Aconitus Nepullus, Poppies Mix, Candytuft Mix, and Sweet Pease Mix., also Chinese Primrose and Ice plant.

April 19. This is the third anniversary of our wedding day. 20. William and Henry started for Northport. Ann came to stay with me during their absence. 22. Thomas and Levi came, and Ann went home. 30. Mr. Ramsdell spent part of the day here. Mr. Lee and Mr. Weigant called, also Mr. and Mrs. Barnum and Mr. and Mrs. Hulbert.

May 2. Called at Mrs. Cumberworth's. Made my first attempt to speak German with strangers.

May 3. William went after the mail. One letter from Ernst and two from the U. S. Ch. Commission informing us that on the 13th of April Ernst was at the hospital with his right arm amputated. Was doing well as circumstances would allow. He was wounded in the last battle before the surrender of Lee. Oh, this cursed Rebellion! How

many more are there to be maimed for life for this most Horrid of all treasons! Besides the many thousand Brave fellows who now lie beneath the soil of their Mother earth! . . . O, it makes the blood of a loyalist curdle to think for a moment of the outrages which this War has caused to be committed. But Time will wipe away the stain. Our country will shine the brighter on its Page in the world's history. We think even now that we see the day not far distant when peace, tranquility and happiness shall be found in our land in the room of sorrow, grief and desolation.

May 9. Henry found the cow with a calf this morning. 18. Henry went after the mail. Letter from Ernest, was in Washington, arm doing well. 19. A man came this morning, brought our horse and a very uncourteous letter from Mr. Sutton stating that said horse troubled him very much and if she belonged either to "William or Henry or your Wife, desired some of you to take better care of her in the future." 22. Went with William and found Nellie.

June 1. National Fast Day. I went down to Suttons Bay with the intention of attending meeting, but instead of there being meeting, there was school! and all the people were at work! Seemed astonished to think I should come down thinking of *such* a thing as going to Church on a week day! . . . So far as I learned, no one paid any regard to the Great National Fast Day in this Town but ourselves. We did nothing only what we were absolutely obliged to . . . Received a letter from Ernst, the first letter written with his left hand. Is soon coming home.

June 22. JAMES LEE CAME HOME YESTERDAY. Henry went down after the mail, did not see James, but got a letter from Ernst telling us that his arm has to be operated upon again. Poor fellow! How he suffers! I wish he were here. 26. James and Asenath came in the morning. James is discharged from Service, has come home to remain. Am glad to see him.

June 29. William and Henry went to a raising this morning. Henry went after the mail in the afternoon. A letter from Ernst, informing us that he is in a bad condition. His arm was to be operated upon again on the 14th of June and he feels very doubtful about being able to undergo the operation and live.

Fourth of July Celebration

How the Fourth of July was celebrated is related by Mrs. Mebert as follows:

July 2. William borrowed a saddle of Mr. Lee for me to ride to Northport. 3. Started for Northport, called at Father's. Arrived at Northport at 1 o'clock in the afternoon. I carried Little Henry and William walked. 4. Called at Mrs. Wood's, then Charter's, and from there went to the grove and listened to the reading of the Declaration of Independence by Rev. Mr. Hollister, and Washington's Farewell Address by Rev. Mr. Smith, and a speech by Mr. Tuttle, a patriotic

song by Mrs. Willson . . . Went over to Mr. McClennann's where William played for them to dance in the evening. Had a pleasant day and evening.

July 7. Henry went after the mail. No letter from Ernst. Must wait one *long, long* week more. I am so afraid we shall hear bad news, but must hope for the best. 9. Henry and I went down to Suttons Bay to Church and Sunday school. Hannah (Bourmeister) went with us. William stayed at home and took care of Little Henry. When we came home Little Henry climbed up to the table where his Uncle had laid his handkerchief pin, took it down and broke it. 10. William commenced working on Mr. Burmeister's house.

July 13. Henry went after the mail, a letter from Ernst. His arm had been operated upon, had three inches more taken off. Was in good health other ways. 19. Cooked the first new potatoes for this summer are very nice. 22. Nellie came home. I rode her down to James'. 26. Hunted for Nellie, did not find her. 27. Nellie came home this morning before we were up. I made myself ready and rode her up to Traverse City. Called at Mr. Ramsdell's office, the printing office. Went out to Mr. Ramsdell's house . . . Called at Mr. Dunlap's and had a *very, very* pleasant call. Enjoyed myself well all day, came home about sundown. Had my picture taken with William to send to my cousins in Indiana.

August 2. Asenath brought little Henry a few apples. 3. Henry came home, brought a pail of raspberries and a letter from Ernst. Is coming home soon.

August 6. William and Henry went to a raising. Mr. Nash took dinner here. I sent a letter by him to send by Propeller to Ernst. 7. Nothing of importance occurred. O yes, Nellie came home. 8. Up early in the morning, got onto Nellie and started for Traverse City at sunrise. Called at Mr. Dunlap's, borrowed a saddle and martingales, then went on. Arrived at T.C. at 10 o'clock . . . Came home before dark. William met me at Mr. Barnum's place.

August 12. Asenath brought me a pail of Whortleberries (huckleberries or blueberries). 15. ERNST CAME RATHER UNEXPECTEDLY. However we are glad he is home. Is well as can be expected. 17. William, Henry and Ernst went down to attend to the goods which came down to Mr. Lee's dock this morning on propeller Sunny Side. 18. Henry went down to Lee's Dock and there procured a team and hauled our goods home with Ernst. 19. Father's little boys and Ann came in the morning. The boys stayed all night. *I am 23 years old today.*

August 20. Three soldiers came to see Ernst. 21. Unpacked a barrel of pork which is threatened with spoiling, repacked it and put new brine on it. 24. Henry and Ernst found Nellie . . . Made myself ready and went to Mr. Dunlap's, then went to Traverse City, did my shopping, then went out to Mr. Ramsdell's. Stayed there all night and in the morning took Nellie down to the blacksmith's shop and had her Hoofs

trimmed... Mrs. Ramsdell had gone on before me on foot. When I overtook her at Greiloc's Mill, she engaged a Horse there and we both rode on as far as Mr. Dunlap's. Came on home.

The Lees Moved to the State Road

August 30. James came this morning and commenced working on his place near us. I hope they'll soon be up here to live. 31. Henry and I started for the blackberry patch, which is 8 miles from here. We filled two pails full of delicious berries, then it began to rain and we were thoroughly wet but our berries were safe. On our way home we called at Mr. Dan Palmer's.

September 3. Mr. Stimmel's and Gröser's little girls here. 4. James commenced cutting his house logs today. 5. James and Asenath moved up this morning. Worked hard at putting things to rights. William is to marry a couple this evening, Mr. Curry and Miss Ada Palmer. 9. Ann came, brought Mother's sauce plates for me to use, and I being very busy, had no time to take care of them. So Little Henry played with them unbeknownst to me and broke two of them. Then William scolded me because I cleaned the floors and because I am to careless and wasteful. In the evening I had company come, some 20 or 30 had supper, then danced until twelve o'clock. All seemed to enjoy themselves.

Well, I'm sure I did.

September 14. James' house raised today. Got dinner for the hands. 19. Ironed and scalded apples, and put them to dry. 25. Cut out my pink dress waist and commenced making it. 26. Cut and put sweet corn to dry.

September 28. With Nellie I went down after the mail. No letters, the German paper and Herald. Took dinner at Father's... Lost the Blanket from under my saddle and went back after it. Just as I came in sight of home, a bear being in the road frightened Nellie very badly. I fell from her unharmed. Lost one of my earrings but found it again.

October 10. I took Nellie in the afternoon & started for the Ramsdell's at 15 minutes to two and arrived at 20 minutes past four. Went down town in the evening to singing school with Emma... 11. Saved seeds some time in the morning, then Mrs. R. took up strawberry plants for me while I trimmed them and put them up, one hundred Wilson's Albany, fifty Triumph DeLand, and fifty Pines, also 10 Hovey's seedling. She then gave me some ornamental plants... Overtook William Core who told me William said I must hurry up for I had company, Miss Sarah Lee... Gave Miss Sarah a collection of plants.

October 14. Made a Comforter. William went down and laid the foundation for the Ranky house. (Louis Reincke) 18. I made, put into the frames, and commenced quilting a skirt for myself. 19. Father came early this morning, said the hands were coming to put up the stable.

William sent down to Mr. R. Lee's and brought with Mr. Lee's team a load of lumber for stable covering. In the afternoon William, in company with Mr. R. Lee, went down to Suttons Bay to attend to school business.

October 21. Little Henry put a poppy seed up his nose which frightened me very much, but his father, with a pair of small compasses, took it out. 22. Had just got through breakfast when Captain Nellson came. Ernst went down to Mr. Nash's with him.

October 23. William went down to work at Carpenter work for Mr. Sutton. Henry went down and helped John Groesser raise his stable. Just as I'd finished washing, Mr. Micham came and told me that Nellie was badly hurt. Ernst went after her, brought her home, and Mr. Micham, Hulbert and I dressed her wound, which was a deep gash in her side.

November 1. Braided corn husk mattress and picked up and put up dry husks for another bed. 5. Henry went away this morning, expecting to remain some time at work for Mr. Gunton in Traverse City. 11. Ernst went to Traverse City and got two dwarf cherry trees and one plum tree from Captain Nellson. 12. William has bought us Harper's Magazine. 13. William has finished plastering down stairs and went down to Suttons Bay to a caucus. 16. William went to Northport as one of the delegates of Bingham to attend the County Convention held there for the purpose of choosing a candidate for Circuit Judge. 17. William came home, brought fruit trees. 20. I took Nellie and went down to Mr. Ranky's (Louis) after William's shoes. 22. I went to German meeting. 28. Mr. Porter's house raised today.

December 23. Baked pies, bread and cake. 24. Had ice cream for supper. 26. William went and Engaged a Cutter for New Year's. 29. Henry came home to stay.

There is a financial statement in the back of the book, giving amounts received from "strangers" who enjoyed their hospitality. Some entries are: "Indian dinner, \$.25; gentleman lodging, \$.50; Indian bread, \$.15; Karosene, \$.55; trees, \$7.00; Nellie, \$1.00; two hens, \$.50, etc."

Evidently kerosene was used during the last years of the Civil War, though candles were also used for light.

Chapter 12

REV. JOHN A. LAWRENCE

One of the much loved and respected men of Keswick was the Rev. John A. Lawrence. His grandson, Leonard A. Rogers, writes of him:

John Allan Lawrence, with his wife, two sons and a daughter, took up permanent residence in the community in the early 70's. During the summer of 1872 he filed, under the Homestead Act, on a quarter section of land half a mile west of the Keswick school house.

In the early fall Mr. Lawrence moved his family to the new home site, and with the aid of neighbors, started to erect a log house.

Meanwhile, the family set up temporary quarters in a canvass tent. By early October the side walls of the house were in place and ready for the roof — which was long delayed.

The morning after the log-raising marked the beginning of a memorable winter — the first and last snowfall began, continuing until late in April almost without interruption. During that long, stormy winter the family was compelled to live in the cramped quarters of the tent, insulated only with hemlock boughs and snow.

The Lawrence family shared the lot of all early comers to that region. The land was covered with giant forests of virgin timber. Elms and hemlock measured up to six feet across the stump. Beautiful areas of hardwood, maple, beech, oak and ash, with the evergreens, white pine, basswood, spruce, cedar and many other varieties of timber combined to make the region a paradise.

The task of clearing this wooded land in order to provide for the needs of the family was Herculean, and required long hours of back-breaking toil. The family was forced to subsist on a meagre diet. Mr. Lawrence was a man of simple desires. Measured by the standards of the more successful, he was not overly ambitious.

The Nature Lover

Mr. Lawrence was a nature lover and found his greatest joy in the simpler things of life. He was a natural horticulturist, and the results of his efforts could be found throughout the region. To him, a tree was a thing to be enjoyed rather than to be destroyed. For instance, John Revold was employed to clear the lot where the Keswick school house now stands, and he determined to get rid of every tree and bush. On discovering this, Mr. Lawrence requested the school board that certain of the smaller trees be spared so that the school yard might be a beautiful park rather than a barren waste which would later involve the expense of landscaping. The board granted the request, with the result that Keswick had one of the most beautiful school yards in the county, a monument to the Lawrence sense of beauty.

The Lawrence home was a place of natural charm. As the land was cleared, fruit trees and shrubs of every kind that would grow in the region were planted without apparent regard for order or direction. He just wanted a few fruit trees and berries for the family use. The result was a six-acre orchard of between three and four hundred trees of almost as many varieties, of every type of fruit, interspersed with native forest trees, everything from the stately spruce and majestic pine to the lowly currant bush. This hodge-podge planting among the stumps of the vanishing forest resolved itself into a veritable Garden of Eden. It was the type of work in which Mr. Lawrence found his greatest joy, and by the same token, the least financial return for his labors.

To Mr. Lawrence, the task of earning a living was only incidental. His consuming interest found expression in two definite channels: First.

creating beauty in the field of nature. Second, entering into every phase of community life in which he could better the living conditions of friends and neighbors. Possessed of a fund of interesting stories, which he told with an inimitably jovial chuckle, he was never long without an interested audience. Because of his absolute sincerity, his social contacts inspired universal love and trust.

A Lay Preacher

Mr. Lawrence came to Keswick in his forty-fifth year, and was immediately confronted with two problems. The first was the need for a lay preacher to carry on religious work during the long periods of time when ordained ministers, the circuit riders of the day, were unable to come to the community. The second was the language problem. He was of English descent, while practically all of the early settlers of Keswick were Germans. Within a few years he had mastered the German language to the extent that he was able to converse with his neighbors, and even to preach to them in their own language.

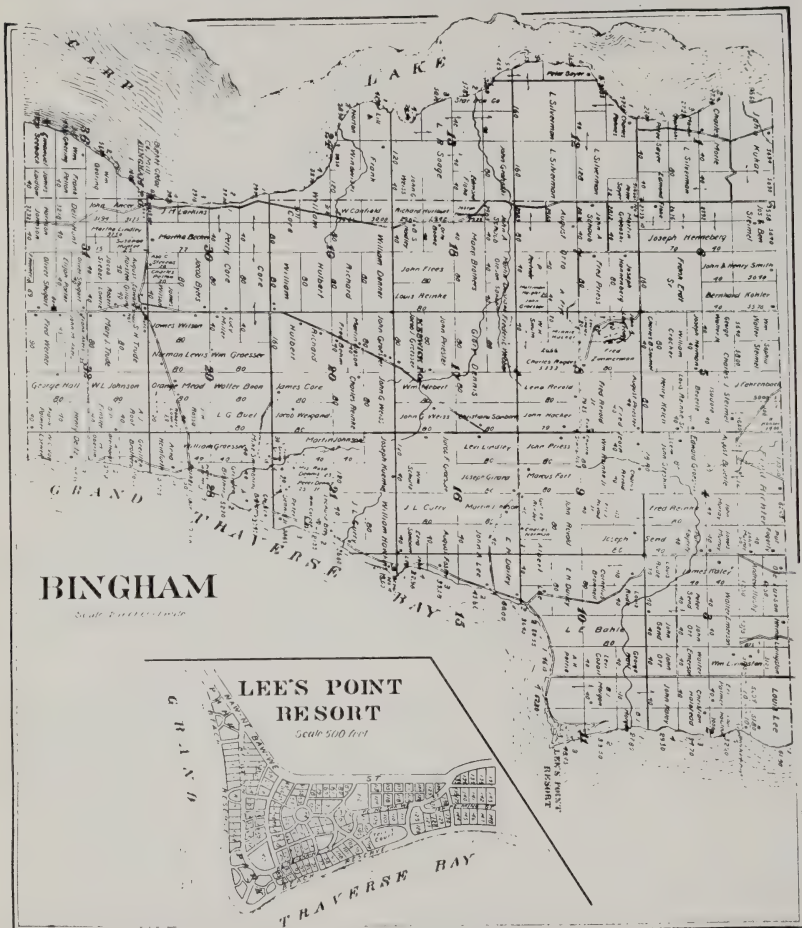
While Mr. Lawrence never became affiliated with any church organization, nor was ordained, he ministered to a pressing need of his day. The communities he served were widely scattered and could be reached only on foot or by ox trails through the forests. As a lay preacher he made his rounds on foot, spurning the use of a horse as too slow, and the animal too much of a nuisance. Tireless as an Indian, he could outwalk a horse, and thought nothing of a twenty or thirty-mile hike between a morning and an evening service. He was in demand all over the county to conduct funeral services, officiating in this capacity more often than any ordained minister of his day.

Mr. Lawrence served as supervisor of Bingham township for many years, and also as justice of the peace. With the enviable ability to relish a joke at his own expense, he told of an experience which came while he was still an active preacher. A young couple came to him to be married, and he was regretfully compelled to turn them away because he was not a licensed preacher. It was not until several days later that it dawned upon him that while as a lay preacher he could not perform a marriage ceremony, as a justice of the peace he was fully authorized to do so.

Mr. Lawrence lost his wife about fourteen years after their arrival in Keswick. After the marriage of his daughter, who remained on the old homestead, he built and moved to a small house on the shore of a pond, about half a mile from the original home site. There he spent his declining years, taking care of a few chickens, a cow, and putting around in his vegetable and flower garden.

His grand-daughter's reply to a stranger who asked the whereabouts of her grandfather aptly sums up his life's philosophy, "Oh, he's down by the water talking to his flowers."

Mr. Lawrence was born near St. Johns, New Brunswick, Canada, in 1827. At the age of ninety-one, with mind and memory still keen he departed to the Land where "He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also doth not wither, and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. (Psa. 1.3)



Chapter 13

THE FIRST FAMILIES OF KESWICK

Keswick is a necklace of emerald farms strung on the State road, with pendant farms on side roads, lying about midway between Northport at the tip of Leelanaw county, and Traverse City, at the head of Grand Traverse bay. The history of this region, and of the entire county, goes back only a little over a hundred years, so far as the white settlers are concerned. Prior to their arrival, the Ottawa and Chippewa

Indians lived there, and French fur-traders may have touched its shores in their avid search for the natural riches of the forests and for conquest of the territory for France.

In the early days Leelanaw county was practically one neighborhood, where all knew each other at least slightly. That was particularly true of the east side of the county, where settlers drifted from Northport to Omena, south to Suttons Bay, Lees Bay, Keswick, Bingham, and Greilickville (or Norristown). The county became a melting pot. One found Germans and Bohemians; transplanted down-east Yankees and English; Scandinavians, French, Polish, Indians, all learning to know and respect each other.

Keswick lies on a strip of high land between Grand Traverse Bay and Lake Leelanaw, formerly called Carp Lake. It was wooded with heavy forests of hardwood, and of hemlock, whose bark was used in tanning; of the lovely white birch, from which the Indians made their canoes, and later miniature canoes to sell to the whites. No home was complete without a canoe comb-holder.

In the 1860's and 1870's a group of Germans came to the region, an industrious, capable, honest, deeply religious, hart-nachich (their own word for stiffnecked) people, who left their indelible impress on the community.

Their dwellings were small log houses, generally a story and a half. Where the large families of children were tucked away at night was known only to the resourceful pioneer mothers.

Life was serious for the pioneers, and they met it with grim fortitude. But there was a lighter side to their natures and they enjoyed themselves too, and many amusing incidents occurred. Some of them will be related here.

The Groessers

Our first glimpse of Jacob Groesser of the snapping black eyes is when he and his wife Margaret trudged over the corduroy road through the swamp from Suttons Bay to the Cross Roads, several miles south, carrying their four-burner kitchen store on long poles over their shoulders. A number of families lived where the north-south, and east-west roads crossed, but no trace of the settlement remains today.

The Groessers came to this country in 1864, after having lived near Hamilton, Ontario (where the Steimels also lived) for eleven years. The older children were born there. Jacob J. was the first of their children born in the United States, in a little log house on the Cross Roads.

Mr. Groesser bought his farm from the Government, paying \$1.25 per acre. The grant carried the signature of General, then President, U. S. Grant. Mr. Groesser took out his citizenship papers but was not



Jacob and Margaret Groesser

drafted for the war. He worked in a mill in Traverse City, walking home on the Indian trail on Saturday night, and back again in time for work on Monday. He bought a barrel of pork during the war and carried it on his back to the Cross Roads.

When the Groessers got on their farm they hoed in the first wheat between the stumps. At about this time there was a rumor of oil beneath the soil, and a well was sunk at Fountain Point, near Provement. No oil was found, but an artesian well of mineral water gushed forth. Leases were taken on land in many places in the county, including that of Mr. Groesser, but oil has not yet been found.

Louis Groesser did not like the German Army, where the men served three years without pay. He did not like the food. He especially did not like the discipline. He wanted freedom. Louis was coachman to the general, and he and the other men in the calvary were required to curry, brush and clean the horses to such an extent that when the officers came on inspection and rubbed their immaculate white gloves over the animals, those gloves must come away without a mark. If there was the slightest soil, a torrent of abuse and invective burst over the men and punishment followed.

Louis decided to get away from it all and go to a land where there was no standing army. He got a furlough and went to Holland, and at a seaport found an obliging captain of an overseas vessel who, for \$20, agreed to take him to Canada as a stowaway. Like King Saul, Louis "hid himself among the baggage," (1 Sam. 10.22) and though the German army sleuths searched diligently, they did not find him.

After the officers had gone ashore and the vessel was well out to sea, the captain was "surprised" to find a stowaway, and sentenced him to scrub decks until they landed. In later years Louis loved to tell the Keswick boys about "das Militair," but he did not tell how he escaped from it.

Among the passengers on the ship on which Louis traveled was a young lady, Maria Flack, whom he met after leaving the ship. She was going to Hamilton. So was he. They were married in 1858, and came to Suttons Bay in the fall of 1864. They located on a farm just at the edge of the swamp, beyond the Cross Roads, and lived there until, in old age, they moved to a cottage on the farm of their son, John.

The Richters and Cooks

Frederick Richter was born in Germany in 1844, coming to Canada with his father and living there until 1863, when they came to Leelanaw county. The father died the following year. For two years Mr. Richter worked in Traverse City in the lumber mill of Hannah, Lay & Co. He married Hannah Burmeister, and they moved to a beautiful farm at the top of the ridge between the swamp on the west and Donnybrook to the east. From the house there was a magnificent view of Lees Bay, and in the other direction, of Carp Lake. The Richters worked hard and soon made their farm a fruitful place.

Mr. Richter was a peppery gentleman, not at all averse to speaking his mind. When the new church was a-building, some one suggested that colored glass be used for the windows, but he objected. He wanted to sit on the aisle by a window where he could keep an eye on his team and be ready to dash out and stop them if they tried to run away. So the church windows were made of plain glass.

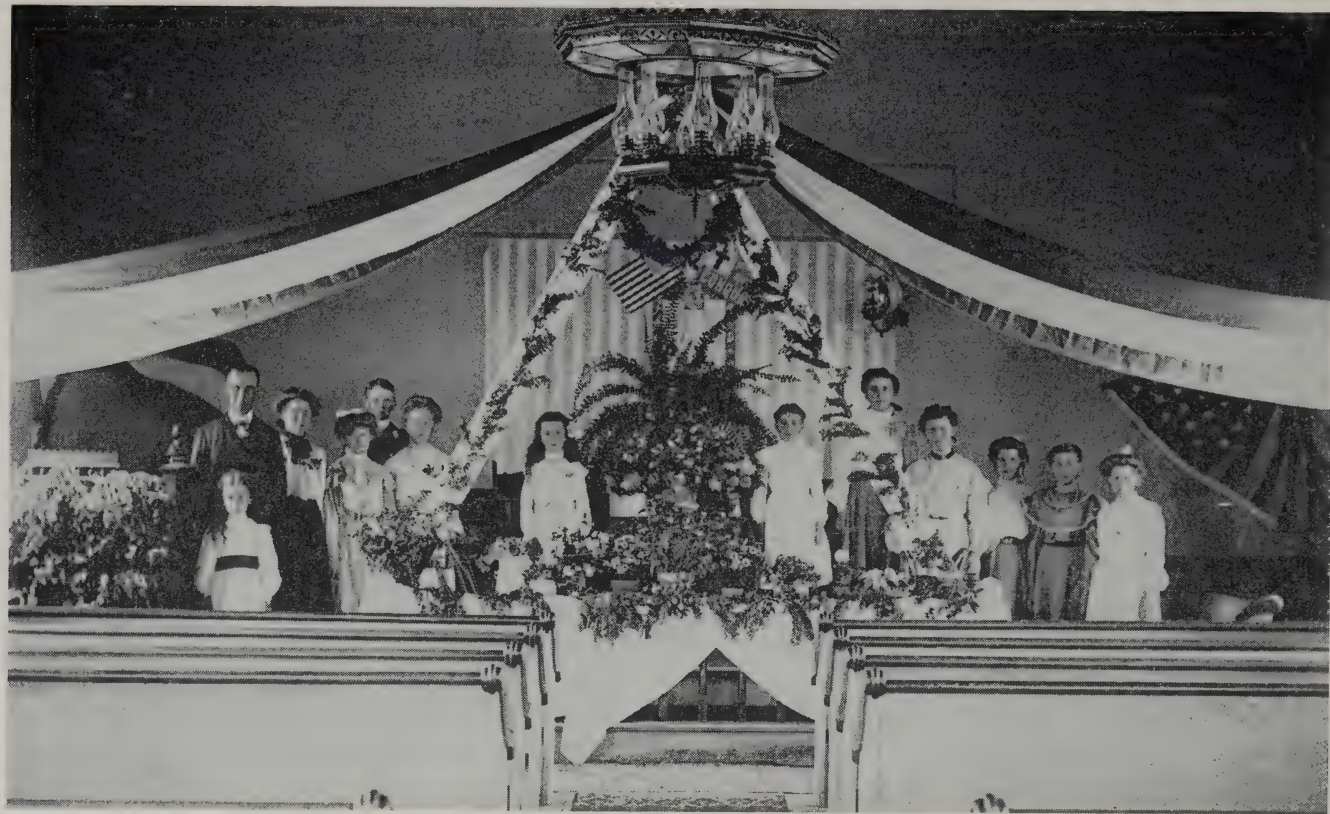
The third Groesser brother, John, located on a farm just south of the Richters. In common with many of the early settlers, he worked at Lees Bay loading and unloading boats. One day he, Mr. Cumber-

worth, and John Burmeister were caught by a swinging vessel and drowned. All three bodies were buried at the bay shore, and in later years were removed to Maple Grove Cemetery in Keswick. John Groesser's widow married Hiram Cook, the first shoemaker of Suttons Bay.

If Mr. Richter was peppery, his sister, Mrs. Cook, was pure ginger. She had a large family, which she felt it her duty to keep under firm control. One daughter, Emma Cook, was particularly attractive to the



Charles Revold and grandchildren, Alvin and Sybil



Fred Revold, Children's Day in Keswick Church

young men in the neighborhood. One Sunday two of them went to her home and became embroiled in a fierce altercation. Emma apparently remained calm, but the young men carried the scars for many years. One of them never married, and the other did not marry until late in life.

A son by the first marriage, Louis Groesser, married Margaret Strohm, and they lived for a number of years on a farm across the road from the Weiss's, and which later became the property of Jacob F. Groesser, a cousin.

The Revolds

The Charles Revolds were natives of Mecklenburg, Germany, who came to Canada in childhood. They were married in 1868, and their son Frederick was born in 1871. In 1872 they came to Keswick and settled on a farm back from the State road and soon made it a show place. Mr. Revold was an energetic man, with a wide smile and a generous heart. He gave the land on which the church was built and the parsonage site also. One minister said of him, "If you go to Revolds often enough you won't have to go to the grocery store." Those were the days then the minister was paid partly in farm produce, and he always got an extra portion at the Revolds.

Fred Revold, son of Charles, was his energetic father, plus. He attended the elementary country school, then went to the high school in Traverse City. He and Albert Mebert were the first Keswick young people who took that advanced step in education. He was township clerk for three years, and Justice of the Peace for several years.

Fred was superintendent of the Keswick Sunday school for many years and held other important positions in the church. He had an ambition to make religion real and attractive to the young. The Leelanaw County Sunday School Association was active at that time under the presidency of John White, of Solon, and Fred was secretary. Founded in 1888, the Association held county conventions annually, at least five being held in the Keswick church, four in Bingham, and three in Suttons Bay during the first fifty years of its history. An illustration of the alertness of this group to the current problems is found in the resolution adopted at the first convention in 1888 to "instill principles of sobriety into the minds of our youth, and train them to lives of sober manhood."

The Revolds were hospitable, and on many a Sunday afternoon the young people gathered with Fred and his sisters, Emma and Martha, at their home to enjoy a neighborly good time.

Frederick Revold, Sr., brother of Charles, acquired a homestead under the Act signed by President Lincoln on May 20, 1862, which provided that 160 acres of land were to be given out of the public domain to a bona fide homesteader on payment of a nominal fee after five years of actual residence.

Matilda (Tilly) Revold, daughter of Frederick, was a lively girl. One day she and some other young people were at Levi Lindley's. Henry Mebert had an "unloaded" revolver, and Tilly seized it. "I'm going to shoot the baby," she cried, pointing the gun at the child in its mother's lap. Nothing happened. Then, "I'm going to shoot you," pointing at Mr. Lindley. She did, and for the rest of his life there was a gap among Mr. Lindley's strong white teeth. Tilly married Glory Dennis, a gay, rollicking Frenchman, and her father gave them eighty acres of land from his homestead.

Their daughter, Vella Dennis, was a charming girl, with a musical laugh she rang out frequently. A mixture of little girl and young woman from the age of five, Vella was in the center of community fun. The promise of splendid maturity was never fulfilled, for she died at sixteen of tuberculosis.

The Reinckes

Early in the 1860's the Louis Reincke family came to Suttons Bay and acquired a farm south of Louis Groesser's. In addition to farming, Mr. Reincke was a shoemaker and mended many shoes for the neighbors. His son, Louis, bought a farm several miles South, near the Donners and the Oberlins.

Another son, John, was a short, round man, with an eager, bouncy step as though he saw a good joke a little way down the road and was eager to catch up with it. In those days it was a mark of maturity to acquire a team of horses. John had a pair of wiry, well-trained ponies. When he returned from working at his brother's farm and approached a house, he would rise, legs wide apart, grip the reins tightly, crack a whip, and emit blood-curdling yells while the ponies dashed at a mad gallop past the pop-eyed children huddled behind the fence. A short distance down the road he sat down and the ponies resumed their usual pace. The show was over.

Children thought that fences were a sure protection. They always felt perfectly safe behind them while they satisfied their curiosity about the doings on the highway. Especially when, years later, the automobile appeared.

Another early settler, William Reincke, brother to Louis, located on a side road east of Charles Revold. A man of impressive dignity, he applied himself strictly to his business of farming, and to his church work. The eldest son of the family, Charles, had a farm near the Behms. He married Mary Groesser, daughter of Jacob. William, another son, married Matilda Sanborn, and bought the Diple farm, across the road from the school house. The farm is still in the family. The Dipleys, a childless couple, had adopted a niece, Nora, and a boy, Frank.

Other Neighbors

John Priest was among the early settlers, and soon had a fine farm under cultivation. Fortunately, he left a few acres of forest standing

just across the road from the school house. At recess time the children dashed for the woods, in season picking hepaticas, spring beauties, violets, Jack-in-the-pulpit trilliums, Dutchman's breeches, squawberry, Winter-green, and other lovely flowers. They came back to the school house with shining faces, hands so full of flowers that only the washbasin was large enough to hold them. They had never heard of conservation. In the autumn they picked beechnuts, triangular bits of sweetness.

Across the road was the Peter Burmeister farm, which later came into the hands of John Hacker, who married Minnie Burmeister. On the road running east were the farms of Marcus Fort, Joseph Girard, and later, Gottlieb Rader, the last immigrant, who came in 1893.

William Strohm, good-natured and mild-mannered, had a farm south of Maple Grove cemetery. Across the way lived the August Priesters. Mr. Priester stood out among the men because of his hair cut. It was rumored that when it grew too long, Mrs. Priester clapped a bowl on his head and cut off everything that showed below its rim. Mr. Priester was said to have power to stop the flow of blood when animals were injured, but in later life was reluctant to attempt to exercise this influence. The Fred Jerns lived quietly near by.

The Sanborns

The journey of the William Sanborns from Canada to Michigan in 1872 was full of adventure. They traveled first to Port Huron to take passage on a boat, but the rudder broke and a new one had to be secured from Sarnia.

The Sanborns finally landed at Northport, and in a lumber wagon drawn by one horse, with a cow and some furniture, they arrived at the home of Mrs. Sanborn's sister, Mrs. Louis Reincke. The first year they lived on the old Egler place, then bought the James R. Lee farm on the state road, and lived there in a little log house. The rigors of the time are shown by the fact that Will Sanborn did not go to school after he was twelve, as his father said he was needed for work in the woods.

Some years passed in the usual struggle with the forest and in raising food crops. Then tragedy struck. The boys had traps in the woods about a quarter of a mile from the house, and John, sixteen, and Sammy, fourteen, went out to examine them. John set the gun he had been carrying down by a log, and the trigger caught and locked. Sammy came up, put his hand on the muzzle, and reached down to pick up the gun. It went off and shot him in the chest. He ran to the fence and fell dead.

Some years later Mr. Sanborn and his youngest son, Albert, were working in the woods when a falling tree struck and killed him. It was a great blow to the family to lose a kind and thoughtful father, and to the community to part with one of its valued citizens.

Mrs. Sanborn, a proud and spirited woman, stayed on the farm with her son Daniel, who never married. When Mrs. Sanborn's health failed, Lucinda Heckendorn, a granddaughter of Mr. Sanborn by his first wife, came from Canada and took charge. She cared for the invalid, did the work in the house and garden, raised chickens, milked, churned, and treated the neighbors to fresh buttermilk.

Dan was a versatile genius, able to turn his hand to many things. He cultivated the farm, ran a small feed mill, a gas station, and in season, a threshing machine. The neighbors always knew when he was in the fields by the long and loud, one-sided conversations he held with his horses. If these patient animals understood any English beyond "Giddap" and "Whoa", they must have been grieved by his low opinion of them. The Lindley boys adored him, and one of the treats of their lives was to go to Dan's and listen to his tall tales.

Some Romances

The Kelch romance began in Germany, where Elizabeth Priester, a big, hearty girl, was employed in an imposing residence, along with Katie Beiers, a gay little red-head. Henry Kelch was attracted to Elizabeth, and called on her. After this had gone on for some time, the master of the house became annoyed and forbade Henry ever to enter his door again. He never did—he came in by the window. After the Kelchs were married, they and Katie and Fred Froelich all came to Suttons Bay together, and the Kelchs bought a farm near the Priesters.

Fred Froelich was a fine young man who attended the Keswick school for a short time to learn English. At recess time he occasionally gathered the boys into a company, armed them with icicles broken from the schoolhouse eaves, and drilled them in elementary German military tactics. Later he returned to Germany, married a gracious, hospitable young woman, and returned to rear a family in true American style.

The Weiss Family

The church aided settlement also. Edward Weiss was married to Adelheid Berthke in 1859. In 1867 he became a minister of the Evangelical Association, and was soon assigned to the Grand Traverse mission, where the Germans who had emigrated from Canada wanted church services in their native language. After a time his daughter Amelia married John Groesser, son of Louis, and they settled on a farm on the State road.

John Weiss, the son of Rev. Edward Weiss, bought the farm formerly owned by the Rev. Mr. Allert, and lived there the rest of his life. He held a number of township offices, including that of Justice of the Peace. He was another victim of the forest, for a tree fell upon him and his right arm had to be amputated.

Devious are the ways of the fate that brings people together. Anton Meereis came from Austria in 1865 and settled in Solon township. His

wife was ill, and a doctor prescribed liquor for her. She became an alcoholic, and after much tribulation Mr. Meereis divorced her and she went back to Europe. He married his second wife in 1877. Their son William married Adelaide (Ollie) Groesser and settled on the old Groesser farm in Keswick.

The Olsons

Martin Olson and his wife moved to Keswick in 1876 and became integral and important citizens. He was a good carpenter and was soon busy at his trade as well as in farming and running a neighborhood store. The Olson house somewhat resembled the present ranch house in that it was a long, one-story building, one room attached to another for some distance toward the woods. One of those rooms contained the store, the most attractive place the children knew, for Mrs. Olson had the delightful habit of treating them to pieces of candy with sentimental mottoes on them, and to heartshaped pieces of gum, also bearing romantic printed matter.

At a Christmas celebration in the old log school house the floor broke down. After the excitement subsided, the people decided to build a new school, and Mr. Olson was given the contract. Later he built the Keswick Church, as well as many of the frame houses erected in the 80's and 90's. He was interested in civic affairs and held a number of township offices.

After Mrs. Mebert's death the Keswick post office was moved to Olson's and remained there until rural free delivery was extended to all the territory it had served. For a time after the railroad began running, Fred Behm, and then Mr. Schultz, met the train and got the mail sack, took it to Olson's, and then took the out-going mail sack to the train when it returned to Traverse City.

Other Early Settlers

The Behms lived an uneventful life at the southern boundary of Keswick proper with John Ulrich, brother of Mrs. Behm. The elder Behms died early and their orphaned daughter Martha was adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Mebert and thenceforth was known as Mattie Mebert.

Fred Behm had the most artlessly picturesque vocabulary of any man in the county, which was no doubt aggravated by his yoke of homesick oxen. At every opportunity they ran home to Mr. Growhowsky's, and it took hours of effort to trace and bring them back.

On the road leading west from the schoolhouse there was a considerable settlement. There were the Schwalms, followed by the Zimmerman's. Mrs. Zimmerman's father, Mr. Fahnus, was an outstanding character, a one-horse farmer. Hard-working during the week, on Sundays he hitched his one animal to a sort of wagon-cart and came to church with his wife. There he knelt upright with his face toward the altar when prayer was offered, instead of turning about and facing the

back of the seat as the others did, and the light on his face was good to see. He came to a tragic end, gored to death by a bull he had taken to the barn.

There were the Hahnenbergs, the Erdts, and the Ottos. Ernest August Otto and his wife had beautiful twin daughters, Emma and Minnie. It was rumored that they "painted and powdered," and the women and girls were conscientiously shocked. But the girls were so pretty! So one and another began surreptitiously to experiment with powder, and that is how cosmetics came to Keswick. Minnie married Conrad Lather, a blacksmith in Suttons Bay. Emma conducted a variety store in the town for a number of years. The elder son, Fred, married Martha Mahn, a Keswick school teacher.

The last immigration into Keswick was in 1887, when the Donner family came from Germany, followed in 1893 by the Gottlieb Rader and William Schultz families. The Donners bought a farm to the west of the State road, including the parcel of land formerly owned by A. E. Lindley. The Schultz's acquired the Remus farm, and the Raders found a place across the road from Joseph Girard. All were quickly assimilated.

The first Sunday the Donners came to church the young Americans and the young Germans stared hard at each other. Herman Donner was not to be daunted, even if these young people could speak English. He had some knowledge too. So he pointed to some printing and said, "Das ist Latein." A pert girl said, "It is not, it's English." But the ice was broken and the young people became friends. Big, good-natured Franz became a neighborhood favorite.

Chapter 14

DAILY PIONEER LIFE

The people worked hard. They had to. The mid-west in general, and Michigan in particular, required persistent, intelligent effort to wrest a living from the small clearings. Grain was planted between the stumps, and sickles were used to harvest it. Later, as more land was cleared, the modern cradle cut a wide swath and laid the grain in shining rows. It was tied in bundles, shocked, and then loaded on a wagon and taken to the barn for threshing. Tom Lindley had the first threshing rig, and loved to tend the engine with its piercing whistle.

Butchering day came in the fall. An open fire was built and a big kettle of water heated. Then came the horrid squeals of the pigs as the knife plunged. The bodies were scalded, and soon they hung, white and still, head downward. The hams were put aside to be smoked, quantities of sausage were made, well flavored with sage, and the rest of the meat salted for future use. At dinner-time, fresh spare-ribs were served, and at supper time, fresh sausage regaled the workers.

There was no waste in a pioneer household. The ashes from the wood fires were saved and put into a big container, often the hollowed trunk of a tree, set on end. Water was poured on the ashes, which soaked

through and emerged as lye. The lye was put in a big kettle over a fire, and all the hoarded scraps of meat, pork rinds and the like were put in. The mass boiled until it became soft soap to be used in scrubbing. The rest was boiled further until it hardened and was used in laundering. It was very strong, and hard on the hands.

The pioneer women cared for the children, often helped in the fields, cooked and baked, sewed, kept chickens, milked. There were always problems of clothing. In time the farmers acquired sheep, which were shorn in the summer, and the wool washed, carded and spun. The spinning wheels of the German women were small, and turned by a foot pedal. This was in contrast to the large wheels used by the Yankee women, when the spinner gave the wheel a smart push and then stepped back to draw out and twist the thread. Then came the interminable knitting of socks, mittens and scarfs.

In their lighter moments the women pieced quilts, some of intricate patterns quilted later in tiny stitches which again formed patterns. These were the show pieces, exhibited with much pride. For every-day warmth, however, the wool-filled comfort, which required only to be tied at intervals to keep the wool in place, came into its own. It was downright comfortable.

Going To Traverse City

Located almost exactly half-way between the Equator and the North Pole, Leelanaw county should have a truly median climate, but appeared to lean toward winter in its more spectacular aspects. Snow usually began to fall in November and remained until April.

Going to Traverse City was an adventure in the winter. People wrapped themselves in layers of their warmest clothing and put hot soapstones to their feet. There were several games to be played. First was the scary one of watching the horses plunge into the drifts, and waiting to see if the sleigh would tip over. Another was to see how many miles one could ride before the first shiver came. If the snow was packed hard, one could play cowboy by leaving the highway and driving over the fences and through the fields in a short cut.

Traverse City was a bustling lumber town, first settled by Horace Boardman in 1847. Farmers brought bags of wheat to be ground at Norris' mill, then went on to Hannah, Lay & Co.'s big store to exchange, home-churned butter and garden produce for groceries. Amiel Hanslovsky was their favorite clerk. He understood them, and they understood him. On one occasion a farmer living north of Suttons Bay brought some butter for sale. Amiel took one sniff, and then said deprecatingly:

"It's pretty strong, isn't it?"

"Vot for good is it if it ain't strahng?" returned the farmer. Amiel took the butter.

If the farmers felt opulent enough, they went to Colman's restaurant to dinner. There one could get an excellent meal, meat, vegetables, and dessert, for fifteen cents. On the way home there was a snack of crackers and store cheese.

Shopping was confined to two blocks on Front Street, for while people could walk for miles in the country, they tired after two blocks in town. Besides Hannah's, there were Hamilton & Milliken's, and Steinberg's, for dry goods; Trude's for hardware; Wait's drug store; and most wonderful of all, the Famous, a fairyland of toys which a child could enjoy seeing even if he could not hope to own any of them. Wilhelm's was reputed to be a good store, but it was four blocks up on Union Street. Too far.

When the young people became restless at home and began to consider their elders hopelessly conservative and old-fashioned, it was time for them to go to Traverse City and have a brush with the outside world. Many did so. Others acquired farms of their own.

The girls came back wearing bustles; basques, those high-necked, longsleeved; tight-fitting creations that concealed all and indicated everything. With them went full skirts with strips of velvet down the sides; and high-buttoned shoes. They curled their hair with curling irons thrust down the chimney of a kerosene lamp. The boys had a new swagger. Instead of the luxurious beards, without mustaches, worn by their elders, they sported big handle-bar mustaches and no beards. Even the little girls felt the change. Instead of prim pigtails, they might leave their hair free. Some were even allowed to wear bangs. Nora Diple had such a modern mother.

The Germans Eat Well

The Germans ate well. Some dishes they enjoyed were abhorred by their neighbors, such as blut wurst (blood sausage) and stink kaes (cheese), which lived up to its name. These disappeared from the diet, while others, like schmier kaes (cottage cheese) became general favorites.

Freshly clabbered sour milk, sprinkled with brown sugar, was eaten right out of the crock.

Noodles were a favorite accompaniment of soups, especially chicken soup. Home made, they surpassed anything ever concocted by a factory.

Snitzel bohne (green beans cut on the bias), were cooked, drained, and served with a sauce of sour cream, vinegar, and sliced onions. Delicious!

Lettuce, with a dressing of sour cream and vinegar, and enough salt; sour krout; dried sweet corn, the ears cooked, the kernels cut off and dried; green beans, and cucumbers, put down in brine, were relished.

Potato salad was made like this: Cook the potatoes with the jackets on, peel and cut into small chunks. Blend vinegar with hot grease, and pour over the potatoes. Serve hot.

Milk gravy makes it possible to eat potatoes with pleasure. Go to the smokehouse and cut enough slices of ham or bacon for the family dinner. Fry, and remove the meat from the pan. Thicken the fat with flour, and brown. Add milk quickly, and stir until smooth. Salt agreeably.

At a comparatively late date canning was discovered, and Mrs. John Priest was one of the first to can a dozen quarts of fruit. That was thought to be a plentiful supply for the winter.

One of the finest desserts is sour cream apple pie. Line a pie plate with a rich crust, and fill with thinly sliced apples. A great deal depends on the apples. Twenty Ounce Pippins are excellent. Dribble on four tablespoonfuls of thick sour cream, four or five tablespoons of brown sugar, and sprinkle cinnamon on top. If the apples are not juicy, use more cream.

To make huckleberry pie requires some doing. First find if the berries are ripening south of Traverse City, then begin to talk of a berry-picking trip. Finally father says casually, "Joe says huckleberries are ripe now. How about going soon?" You agree enthusiastically, and spend the rest of the day collecting containers, bedding, and other things needed for an overnight camp, and food enough for half a dozen picnic dinners. You start very early the next morning, and reach Traverse City when that town is just waking up.

Berry sign appears. There is a stretch of wild country covered with the brushy huckleberry bushes. You make camp, tie on a pail, and set out. The air is pleasantly cool, though soon it will be hot. The berries are a beautiful blue, overlaid with a misty coating. They tinkle pleasantly, and taste even better as you eat the ones "too big for the pail." You hear bird song, fleecy clouds float in the sky, mingled sweet and spicy odors greet you. You are vastly content.

In the evening a fire is built, coffee made, lunch eaten. You eat leisurely, while the light fades and the night birds begin to call. Sleep comes soon and sweet.

The next day you pick until noon, then begin the homeward trek, every pail and basket full of shining blue sweetness. Mother looks at the berries and pronounces them good. You go on the porch and carefully pick out the perfect berries and present them to her. She puts them in a big pie tin, lined with pastry, sugars them plentifully, and puts on a top crust. At the close of dinner you are served with a wedge of the most delectable blue goodness ever made — huckleberry pie.

Chapter 15

THE COUNTRY SCHOOL

When Leelanaw county was organized with its present boundaries in 1863, the township of Bingham, named in honor Governor Bingham,

was organized. Elmwood township was organized the same year; Kasson and Empire in 1865, Solon in 1871, and Leland in 1875. Leelanaw, Suttons Bay, Centerville, Cleveland and Glen Arbor complete the roll of townships in the county.

Organization as a separate township brought about the establishment of schools in Bingham township. A log school house was built in Keswick. Among the early teachers was Mrs. Mebert. The reading class was unique. It stood in a row in front of the platform, the oldest and tallest pupil at the head, the youngest and smallest at the foot. Mrs. Mebert held the book in her hand, facing the pupils, and each in turn read a bit. They learned.

Then came Miss Jennie Scott, of Northport, and Miss Josephine Dube, of Leland, who in turn tried to instill learning into more or less receptive minds.

In the late 1940's the Keswick school district was consolidated with the Suttons Bay school system, the first six grades still going to the old building, while the seventh and eighth grades went by school bus to Suttons Bay. In 1951 the Keswick school was closed and all the pupils were taken to Suttons Bay, where a fine new high school had recently been dedicated.

The double seats in the old school house were all sized for grown-ups, or at least for the larger children. The little ones sat with their legs stretching toward the floor, and wriggled. At intermission time they boiled from the building to play such vigorous games as pum-pum pull-away, or ball, but the girls loved best to make leaf hats. They gathered the big maple leaves, snipped off the stems and used them as pins to fasten the leaves in cap or hat form. At that time it was customary for women in bereavement to wear long black veils over their faces and hanging down their backs, so the most admired hats boasted leafy mourning veils.

The children went barefooted all summer long as a matter of course. On the first sunny, almost warm, day of spring, shoes suddenly became tight, and at noon they came off. Back in the cool school room the youngsters might have to sit on their feet to keep them warm, for it was unthinkable to put stockings and shoes on again. Any one who has not wriggled his toes in the soft, powdery dust of a country road has not tasted unalloyed bliss.

There has been a constantly increasing emphasis on education, from the first schools where little was taught except "readin', writin', and 'rithmetic." The first advance was to complete the eighth grade; then the high school; and now college is the goal being achieved by more and more young people.

Chores and Pets

When school was out the children went home to do their chores, which included, in some instances, driving the cattle to Mebert's creek

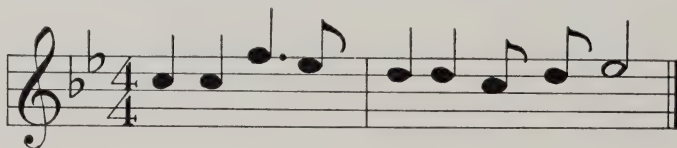
as the wells did not furnish enough water for them and the family too. This grew tiring, so the resourceful youngsters trained calves and rode them.

There was still time for pets, and dogs came first. They varied from Hacker's hysterical little Prinny to Mebert's massive Newfoundland Nero. The dogs were not aristocratic animals, just muts with well-developed personalities. They shared in the work of the farm, pretended to herd the cattle, chased the chickens out of the garden, and suffered many things at the hands of the children. They were expected to stay on guard during the night, so they never had a moment to call on friends or to rest undisturbed. Small wonder that some broke under the strain and voiced their woes in their version of "Eine Kleine Nacht Musik," of barks and longdrawn howls.

Of course there were cats, and many kittens. They were usually independent creatures, considering human beings as a necessary (and at meal times satisfying) evil. But some desired recognition and adulation. One mighty hunter, when he caught a gopher or a mouse, came to the back door and set up a clamorous yowling until the family came out and admired and congratulated him to his heart's content. Only then would he march proudly away to devour his kill.

Crows were most interesting pets. The babies were taken from the nest, and thereafter the children became their slaves, digging worms, soaking bread in milk, and picking berries for them. They loved music, and would sit quietly on the shoulder of a boy playing a mouth organ, croaking softly. They were deliberately mischievous. One would bite off or pull out tender young plants and fly away with a defiant caw. In a few minutes he would come back, alight on an indignant shoulder, and croak an apology. His idea of helping to pick apples was to perch on the edge of a basket, pick them up by the stem, and throw them on the ground. In the fall they all flew away with the wild crows.

While they might not be properly classed as pets, the wild birds of the region meant much to children and parents alike. There were, among others, the robin, sparrow, swallow, ground bird (song sparrow), yellowhammer, yellow birds (wild canary or goldfinch), woodpecker, chickadee, bluebird, cherrybird (cedar waxwing), crow, hawk, partridge, quail, wild duck, sapsucker and whippoorwill. The loveliest of bird songs is that of the song sparrow, which sounds something like this:



Chapter 16

AN IMMIGRANT BOY'S EXPERIENCES

One of the most positive and dynamic men ever to occupy the Keswick pulpit was the Rev. Henry Voelker, outstanding in a profession

that did not lack men of that calibre. Coming to this country while still a boy — partly to avoid military service — he followed his ancestral trade of carpenter for a time. The Voelkers had been carpenters at least as far back as 1761. Then he went to school and entered the ministry of the Evangelical Association. He was licensed to preach in 1878, and came to his first charge, Traverse City, that year, and lived in the log personage in Keswick.

One by one he brought his sister and three brothers to the United States. After some time Justus settled near Petoskey. John was a bright young man, as shown by a letter written to his younger brother Conrad. It is no small test of mental powers to learn a new language, to write it, and express himself as well as he did in the new medium. Conrad came to this country in 1879, and John wrote to him from St. Paul, Minnesota, on October 5, 1881:

"BROTHER CONRAD:

What are you going to do this winter: have you a place? . . . Thought if you didn't have a permanent place and would like perhaps, to make a change in the country, I know of a very good place for you up here, about 60 miles from St. Paul on a farm with an American. He is a very nice man and appears to be a very good man to get along with. He wants a young boy about like you for to do chores around the farm and go to school — Which is worth more to you than wages, all winter, and in the Spring & Summer will pay you wages at what ever you would be worth to him . . . But my advice to you would be this, go to school this winter and next summer you are able to get a salary of about \$15 to \$18 per month."

Conrad's Story

Conrad Voelker sat on the porch of his home near Petoskey and reminisced about his early days in America. His brother Henry had sent for him. He said:

"I went to Rauschenberg to earn passage money, and Justus sent me \$54 to pay the fare from Bremen to Suttons Bay. I left Kirchenau on September 24, 1879, and reached Suttons Bay on October 24. It was a slow journey to Bremerhafen, then to London, where we stayed from Tuesday to Saturday. I did not know where to go or what to do. A young man driving a horse and carriage came by and saw my trouble. He took me to his home to supper, showed me the sights of the place, and then took me to a hotel.

"We were on the ship, a big freighter, for thirteen days and had a rough voyage. A great storm threatened to capsize the ship. Then a heavy fog came and the captain ordered the anchors down until the skies cleared.

"In New York we went through Castle Garden, the immigration port. I bought a little cooked ham and a loaf of bread, and took the

train. An Italian girl asked me to get her some food, but I shared my food with her, cutting the ham and the bread with my jackknife. She left the train at Detroit. There was still a little food left, and the rats in the Detroit station, like little dogs, tried to steal it.

"Then to Grand Rapids and to Traverse City by train, and again I did not know what to do. A man came by and saw I was a green Dutchman and took me to the Bay House, kept by Mr. Fowle. Dorothy Groesser (Mrs. Marcus Fort) worked there and saw that I had supper and a good bed, though I had no money to pay. The next morning Mr. Leo and his family came from Chicago and took me on the boat to Suttons Bay. The Steimel boys, John and Nick, took me to their father's hotel for the night, and the next morning directed me to Henry's.

"One of the first things that attracted me was Henry's pony, Noppy. I knew nothing about horses and wanted to drive this one. Noppy did not want to stand and I did not know how to stop him. I made a clucking sound, a sort of 'Giddap' noise, and he set off faster than ever.

"I went to school the first winter, with Mr. Brown as teacher. The next winter Mrs. Mebert taught, and I went for four months. The third winter Emma Light taught, and I attended for six weeks. I read Paul's primer through in a day, and went through the first, second and third readers the first winter.

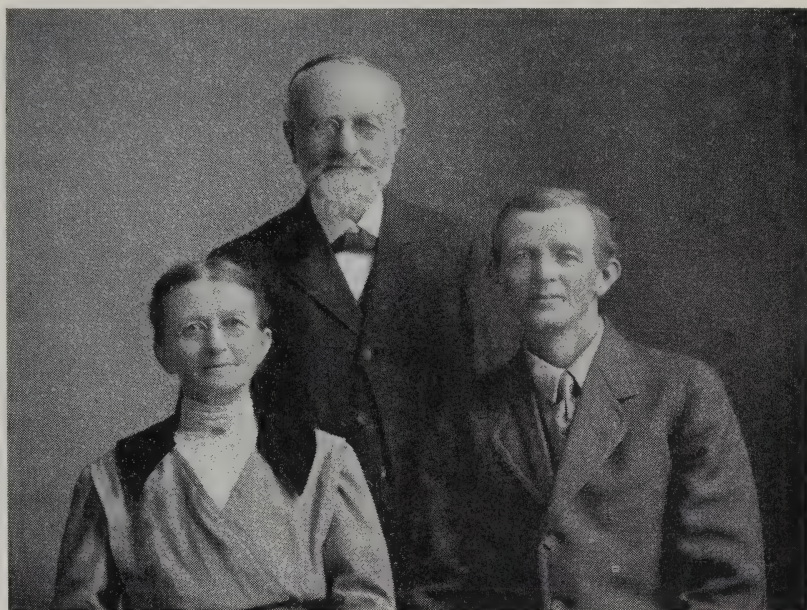
"The day after I came, Henry took me to Revolds, where he was building a kitchen, to help lay the floor, put in windows, and the like. Then I helped Henry build John Groesser's house. The first winter I stayed at Louis Groesser's, working for my board while going to school. The next winter I stayed at my sister's, Mrs. Levi Lindley, and did chores. Levi had an old horse which I drove to Mebert's, took Mrs. Mebert to school, and built the fire. Jacob Groesser paid me for the janitor service.

"In March I went to Daniel Palmer's to help make maple sirup. They paid me \$18 for the first month's work, out of which I sent \$17 to Justus to apply on the loan for passage money. During the summer I got \$8 a month, bought some overalls and a shirt, and saved the rest. One summer I worked at Allert's for \$12 a month.

"In the fall I came back to Lindley's, dug potatoes, and carried them on my back to the old cellar. Wheat grew four feet high. Mr. Sanborn farmed by the moon. He did not want to plant peas for us because it was the wrong time of the moon, but we insisted. He sowed his a week or two later, at the right time of the moon. We had a good crop. He had nothing.

"During the winters John Ulrich and I helped to clear the farm, cutting logs, pulling stumps, and pulling shintangle (ground hemlock). I helped dig the cellar, hauled stones and brick and lumber when Levi built his new house in 1888, and helped finish the lumbering that winter. Then I went to southern Michigan and worked there for three years, then went on my own place.

"Levi and I cut the logs for the lumber for the Keswick school house, which Mr. Olson built."



Rev. Henry Voelker, Mrs. Catherine Voelker Lindley, and Conrad Voelker

Chapter 17

BED-TIME STORIES

Catherine Voelker crossed the ocean in 1868, when she was a young girl of fifteen, the trip lasting seven weeks. She lived first in Canada, then came to Michigan, and married Levi W. Lindley in 1879.

Catherine Lindley was a shy, gentle woman, deeply religious, devoted to her family and church, and with an innate dignity. Life on any pioneer farm was hard, but to her came the added burden of the serious illness of her husband, with lack of money for living expenses. So she and her young sons cleared some land which had been lumbered by John Weiss.

While in Canada Catherine had been converted and joined the Evangelical Association, a church similar in doctrine and practice to the early Methodists. They had strict views on many things, including amusements. They opposed dancing, card playing, and drinking. The eager mind of the young girl craved activity, and she loved to read. One day she was absorbed in a magazine when an elderly friend came into the room and asked:

"Was lesest du, Katrina?"

"Oh, the most interesting story! It tells about —"

"That is a novel," came the stern verdict.

That was enough. Novels were sinful, and Katrina laid down the magazine, never to pick it up again. But she could and did read her Bible.

After her marriage she began to rear a large family. Her duties as a farm wife and mother were multitudinous, yet she always found time to attend to the wants and desires of her children. Each evening when they were prepared for bed and had said their prayers, they clamored for a story. So Catherine sat on the edge of one of the beds and told the immortal tales from the Bible.

The children were on intimate terms with Adam and Eve in the garden. They went with Abraham down the long, dusty trek from Ur to Canaan. Their own childish squabbles permitted them to understand the difficulties between Jacob and Esau. They went with Joseph to the fields, where his brothers gloated over the opportunity to get even with father's pet by selling him to Egypt. Joseph's rise to fame and power were in the best American tradition of rags to riches, and the children could understand that. They agonized with Moses in his forty-year struggle with a complaining mob, and saw them finally settled in Canaan.

Then came Samson. Now, there was a man! Like the pioneers in their own neighborhood, he always got the best of it in any encounter with man or beast. Why, their own father had killed a bear, and the children were sure it was as big and as fierce as any lion Samson ever faced!

It never occurred to them that there might be two sides to these stories — that of the invading Israelitish tribes, insistent on taking possession of the land and all of its wealth, and that of the natives who were driven out of their homes, defeated and disinherited, like the Indians huddled in a little town a few miles to the north in their own county.

David was a real hero, and the children loved his encounter with Goliath. Their father made them some slings and bows and arrows and they practiced their use diligently — but the records of David and of Jonathan were never seriously threatened. Daniel in the lions' den gave them delightful shivers, though of course they knew he would be rescued.

Loveliest of all was the Christmas story, with the Shepherds and the Wise Men coming to the lowly inn to see Mary and Joseph guarding the Holy Babe while the angels sang, "Glory to God in the Highest." Then there were the stories of Jesus' life and wondrous deeds and teachings, His death on the cross, and His glorious resurrection.

These were the bed-time stories Catherine Voelker Lindley told her children, taken from the greatest Book ever written, the Bible.

Chapter 18

THE EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION CHURCHES

The Keswick Church

The early records of the Keswick Sunday school have been lost, but it is said that the work began in 1867. Among the first officers were Mrs. Hawkins, Mrs. Mebert, Prudence Cumberworth, and William Mebert. Some of the record books were kept at the Meberts for years, but have disappeared.

Rev. A. J. Badger, American Union Sunday School missionary, organized the school, according to early lore, but no date is given. A letter received by Mrs. Mebert in 1875 gave the school a choice of new books and papers. Evidently they had received a gift of \$5 to help buy supplies, and the writer, Rev. Thomas Wright, suggested that they add as much more to this fund. For a number of years they used German books and papers.

The church came with the German settlers. The Evangelical Association organized a mission and sent its ministers, who lived at first in Keswick. Later the minister lived in Traverse City and served his wide-flung charges at two-week intervals. They included Keswick, Bingham, Solon and Kasson.

Naturally the services in the early years were in German. Sunday school came first, with the sturdy men teaching the classes. William Reincke taught the little girls their letters and to read German. Louis Groesser had a class of young ladies. August Priester had a class of boys.

Charles Revold, who had a clear, high voice, was unofficial song leader. There was no musical instrument. A suggestion that an organ be installed in the church was indignantly repelled. They wanted no "dudel kasten" squawks to desecrate the grand old hymns. And who would want anything better than to listen to William Reincke, when it was his turn to lead the prayer meeting, strike out lustily in his invariable choice for the opening song, "Hallelujah, schoener Morgen!" It was indeed a beautiful morning when one saw and heard those grand old people and sensed their faith in and loyalty to God.

But in due time Martha Revold took music lessons, probably the first in the community to do so, and one Sunday the congregation was not too surprised to find a small reed organ installed and Martha presiding over it. Her brother Fred was leader of music as well as Sunday school superintendent.

There was strict segregation between men and women in the church, the men and boys sitting on the right and the women and girls on the left. Jacob J. Groesser, (son of Jacob) when he married Katie Beiers, was probably the first man ever to break the segregation rule by sitting with his bride on the woman's side of the church the Sunday after the wedding.

On Sunday morning one might observe a phenomenon that took place only at that time. The dear old ladies sat in rows in front, their black bonnets tied squarely under their chins, shawls over their shoulders, and with their hands folded quietly in their laps. Occasionally one might lift her nosegay of aromatic flowers, slipped in the top of her hymnbook, for an appreciative sniff. Those quiet hands, worn and knotty, so busy throughout the week, were eloquent of woman's share in the pioneer work of making homes in the stumpy clearings.

Another crisis in church life came when the younger generations began to demand that a part of the services be conducted in English. The stiff-necked elders refused to consider it, and their equally stubborn offspring persisted. There were families in the community who could not speak nor understand German, and Mrs. Mebert gathered a class of them and taught them in English. Then the Sunday school was allowed to sing one song, only one, in English. Like the proverbial camel's nose, English infiltrated slowly until the minister was allowed to preach a sermon in English occasionally. In due time it became the accepted language for all services.

Special days were observed, especially Christmas. The men brought in a fine evergreen tree from the swamp, the young people strung popcorn to festoon its branches, bags of gay mosquito netting were filled with hard candy, gifts were brought for distribution, candles were lighted, and the tree was glorious.

The children sang and recited. Some of the elders contributed their bit. The program might feature a child making her first public appearance. Utterly unafraid, the flaxen-haired lass climbed up on the low platform and recited the angels' song, "Ehre sie Gott in der Höhe, Friede auf Erden, und den Menschen ein Wohlgefallen." Then she sang that sweetest of all Christmas carols, "Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht."

The History of the Churches

Rev. William H. Watson, in his "History of the Michigan Conference of the Evangelical Church, 1838-1940," gives the following history of the church in Leelanaw county, which is used with his gracious permission:

In the early years of the 19th century the population of Michigan increased tremendously, from 4,000 in 1805 to 31,640 in 1830, and to 172,543 in 1837. Where the people went, the circuit riders were of the company, and shared their hardships. The circuits were large and the visits of the circuit rider to any community infrequent. When a minister came to a neighborhood, the people gathered in their homes or in the school house for religious services. The announcement of the service was about as follows: "Preaching in the school house on —— at early candle light, and don't forget to bring a candle."

The work of the Evangelical Association in Michigan began in 1841, when Bishop John Seybert visited the state. In 1845 missions

were established in the southern part of the state, and the first church building was erected in Ann Arbor in 1846 or 1847.

A number of Evangelical families from Canada settled near Suttons Bay and appealed to Rev. J. Mack, Presiding Elder of the Flint District, for the services of an Evangelical minister. Rev. Edward Weiss was sent, and Conference took up the Grand Traverse Region as a mission. In 1875 Traverse Bay and Leelanaw County missions were established, and new classes were formed in 1876. The Northern Michigan District, with three charges, was organized in 1882 at Petoskey, Traverse City, and Leelanaw. The Conference of 1875 divided the Grand Traverse Mission, the eastern part to be called Traverse Bay Mission, and the western part Leelanaw Mission.

LEELANAW - KESWICK APPOINTMENT. In 1867 a union Sunday school was organized in the Keswick community, the meetings being held in a log school house. In 1871, the Michigan Conference took up the Grand Traverse Region as a mission and appointed Rev. E. H. Hess as the first pastor. It would appear that Mr. Hess began preaching in Keswick, for in 1872 the Sunday school was organized as an Evangelical school with Jacob Groesser as superintendent. The first church services were held in the homes and in the school house. A log parsonage was erected on the Burmeister farm and used until 1884, when the Conference granted the church permission to sell it.

In 1885, a site was donated by Charles Revold to the north of the school house, and under the ministry of Rev. A. E. Bogen, the Keswick church was erected and dedicated on September 30, 1888, Bishop Thomas Bowman officiating. The parsonage was built beside the church during the pastorate of Rev. J. G. Neuber, between 1898 and 1900.

Mr. Neuber was a young man when he came to Keswick. He was evidently much impressed with the seriousness of his work, for the text of his first sermon was, "Uns is bange, aber wir verzagen nicht," which may be translated, "We fear, but do not despair."

The Rev. James E. Lindley and the Rev. Rupert H. Lindley entered the ministry from the Keswick church.

BINGHAM APPOINTMENT. The first religious services held in the Bingham community were in the home of Gershon Porter. After the erection of the school house, services were held there for a number of years. Beginning about 1885, both Methodist and Evangelical ministers held services on alternate Sundays.

When Rev. J. G. Neuber was appointed to the charge in 1896 he found twelve members at Bingham. A desire was expressed for a church. Five denominations were represented in the community, but after several meetings, a large majority voted to build an Evangelical church. On October 2, 1896, the church was dedicated, the Rev. J. A. Frye officiating.

The Rev. B. E. Belknap entered the ministry from this church.

OLON APPOINTMENT. Services were begun in 1884, though the congregation was not formally organized until 1886. There were sixteen charter members. In 1893 this independent organization affiliated with the Evangelical church, though for many years previously Evangelical ministers had served as pastors.

The Rev. R. J. Lautner entered the ministry from this church.

KASSON APPOINTMENT. The date when the appointment was established can not be identified, but Rev. J. G. Neuber reported Kasson a part of the Leelanaw Charge in 1896. Services were held in a school house. In the fall of 1897 the community experienced a glorious revival. The present church was built and dedicated on September 25, 1898, by Rev. J. A. Frye, Presiding Elder.

Until 1932, Kasson was served with the Leelanaw Circuit, then from 1932 to 1939, was part of the Traverse City charge. Then it joined Solon and was served by Rev. H. A. Brannan. In 1941 it became a part of the Leelanaw charge.

Pastors Who Have Served the Leelanaw Charges

1871-1872	REV. E. H. HESS	1910-1912	REV. SAMUEL MOELLER
1873-1875	REV. J. SCHMAUSS— <i>Gd. Trav.</i>	1912-1915	REV. GABRIEL G. HEXIMER
1875-1876	REV. J. SCHMAUSS— <i>Leelanaw</i>	1915-1919	REV. GUSTAVE RADUCHEL
1875-1877	REV. P. BERG— <i>not ordained</i>	1919-1920	REV. CHARLES A. STRAIT
1877-1878	REV. JOSEPH Y. GINGRICH	1920-1922	REV. CLAUDE B. GREENMAN
1878-1880	REV. HENRY VOELKER	1922-1924	REV. CHARLES E. MEYERS
1880-1881	REV. J. BOROUGH— <i>Trav. City</i>	1924-1925	REV. STANLEY FRACKER
1881-1883	REV. J. BOROUGH— <i>Leelanaw</i>	1925-1926	REV. C. C. KOTESKEY
1881-1883	REV. WM. H. WAGNER	1926-1931	REV. WAYNE M. PALMER
1885-1886	REV. LOUIS V. SOLDAN	1931-1932	REV. E. C. MILLER
1886-1889	REV. ADOLPH E. BOGAN	1932-1934	REV. CARL B. WILSON
1889-1892	REV. JOHN M. BITTNER	1934-1939	REV. H. A. BRANNAN — <i>Leelanaw</i>
1891-1892	REV. J. BOROUGH	1939-1941	REV. H. A. BRANNAN — <i>Solon-Kasson</i>
1892-1895	REV. WM. F. VOGEL	1939-1942	REV. HARLEY F. BAILEY
1895-1899	REV. JOHN G. NEUBER	1942-1950	REV. HARRY GUNYAN
1899-1902	REV. ELIAS RATH	1950-1953	REV. ARTHUR E. FALL
1902-1905	REV. BENJAMIN MOHR	1953-1954	REV. SUMMER YOUNG
1905-1907	REV. WM. A. SHELLEY	1954-	REV. MILLER
1907-1910	REV. CHARLES F. GIESE		

Chapter 19

BINGHAM

There were settlers in the neighborhood, but the real history of Bingham begins with the coming of the saw mill owned by S. C. Darrow and erected by Boone & Boone in 1881. Mr. Darrow was energetic, and in addition to operating the mill on Carp Lake on high gear, built a three-mile plank road, covered with sawdust, from Bingham to a dock on Grand Traverse Bay. He ran the store, where the socials were also held. The post office was established there on November 26, 1878.

The Darrow lumber was taken to Chicago, and there was reported to be "mildewed," so the consignee refused to pay for it. Mr. Darrow not only lost the lumber but had to pay the freight. He could not pay



John Larkin and his Lumberjacks

his men, who had taken his IOU's, and was compelled to pay seven per cent interest and a five per cent bonus on his debts. He sold the mill in 1885 to the Barker-Cedar Co., who sold to John Larkin, and who, after a number of years, sold to Meinard (Mike) Oberlin.

Mr. Darrow was down, but not out. He loaded his possessions on a wagon and started for Traverse City. Driving along Bay Street, near Spruce, he said to his wife, "Jennie, this would be a good place for a grocery store." He saw "Domer" Greilick, of the Greilick Brothers, and borrowed \$3,200 to build a grocery store. The fourth generation of Darrows is in the same grocery store today, now modernized.

When Mike Oberlin took over, business at the mill was booming. He built a saloon, with Mr. Mosier acting as bartender, and a dance hall over it, all in traditional western style. When the lumber business dwindled to a trickle, Oberlin sold to the Bougheys, of the Traverse City Lumber Co. They had expected to ship logs from across Carp Lake, but the distance was too great, and they closed the mill. The saloon closed about the same time.

There were at least three boarding houses for the mill workers. Zimri Hinshaw had a blacksmith shop and a boarding house. The John Ancers had a boarding house near the mill, as did Mrs. Becker.

Logs were hauled by team, on the roads at times, and over the lake when the ice covered it. Two docks were built to receive them. There was an element of danger in this practice, for at times the ice broke and it was hard to rescue drivers and teams from drowning.

Oliver Shugart, who had come from Indiana with his parents, and the Hockstad boys worked on a tug, rafting logs on Carp Lake through the channel at Provement, at Ox-Bow Loop. It was a tricky maneuver to get the logs past the curving banks of blue clay and an experienced pilot was needed. After the lumber business began to decline, Emery Weigand ran the tug, picking up "deadheads," logs that had floated away from the regular loads, but which were sound when dried out.

A passenger boat caller "The Tiger" ran from Fouch to Leland and had a good trade. Then Mosier brought in "The Leelanau", and the competition was so heavy that after two years "The Tiger" quit. The railroad was built to Northport, and passengers who wished to go to Leland came by train to Bingham, transferred to a bus driven by Emery Weigand, and then went by boat to Leland. "The Leelanau" blew up one morning, killing a woman passenger. Since then no passenger boat has run on Carp Lake.

Early Settlers

Bingham and the surrounding country had some interesting colonizers. The Peltons moved from Polishtown, on the west shore of Carp Lake, and took root in the new location. There was Darine (Pappy) Byers, whose wife was a Civil War nurse. James Wilson came about



Bingham Lumber Yard

1877 and settled on the farm where his daughter Phoebe (Mrs. Charles Draper) still lives.

A man who left his mark on the community was Richard Hurlbut, of French-Canadian descent. He was born in 1838 in Vermont, lived in Gouverneur, New York, for a time, and came to Michigan in 1864. He came to Bingham township, located a farm, built a cabin, and sent for his wife, Agnes Pearson, a native of Scotland. Agnes had married at seventeen and was not much older when she set out for the new home. She had plenty of grit, for when her husband was unable to meet her she came across Carp Lake to Core's Landing and made her way to the farm alone.

The early days continued to challenge the courage of the young girl. On Sunday afternoon Mr. Hurlbut left for Lees Bay to load boats, and she saw no one during the entire week except an Indian who carried the mail. She used a maple branch to sweep the cabin.

Bringing live stock into the country presented difficulties. When the attempt was made to drive cattle overland, it took a long time, and some escaped into the woods. When they were brought by water, getting them overboard was hard too. It is said that the boats approached as near the shore as they could, and then the horses were driven overboard and had to swim ashore. Probably the same scheme was used with the cows. Whatever the conditions, cattle and horses came, and the Hurlbuts got some cows.

There was no pasture land, so the cows were belled and driven into the woods. Occasionally the Heimforth cattle came north to Hurlbut's, and the Hurlbut cows went to Heimforths. Sometimes they joined forces and refused to go home, and the owners had to hunt them. However, the Hurlbut's began a dairy of sorts, Mrs. Hurlbut making and selling butter.

Not only cattle, but people got lost. There were no roads, and it was easy to become confused in the woods. Many carried horns and blew them if they got lost. Others hearing, blew their horns and guided them home.

Mr. Hurlbut had a driving ambition. He employed Indians to cut logs for him and paid them with fat salt pork and flour. He bought another forty to add to his original farm, and then another, until he had 400 acres of land. He had the biggest threshing in the neighborhood, a thousand bushels a day for four days, or 4,000 bushels of grain when the farm was cleared. They built a big frame house, which contained a store, and the post office for a time.

Mr. Hurlbut seemed to have a penchant for breaking his legs in the woods, and then was obliged to go to Chicago for treatment. When these repeated accidents took their toll of him, he built tenant houses for two Polish families who worked the farm.

The four sons of the Hurlbuts died in infancy. Blanche, the elder daughter, married Oliver Shugart, and her father gave her the farm which his brother Heman had owned but lost. His daughter Rosetta married Herman Donner and remained on the home farm.

The Cores

William Core, a Liverpool Englishman by birth, came to Hamilton, Ontario, in 1845 with his parents when he was three years old. In 1861 he came to Leelanaw county. In 1863 he joined Company H, First Michigan Artillery, and served in the Seventeenth Army Corps until the close of the war. He was the great attraction to the children of the environs in the Memorial Day parade in Traverse City. Eagerly they watched the marching line of blue until they saw him and shouted, "There's Mr. Core!" It was the climax of the day.

After the war Mr. Core returned to Bingham and purchased 160 acres of land, adding more until he owned about 400 acres. His eldest son, Perry, lived on the farm just to the south of the parental acres, and ran it most successfully.

William Core married Margaret McFarland (a sister to Mrs. Hawkins) in 1867. They came from Detroit to Northport, and walked over the Indian trail to Lees Bay. Then they settled on their farm in Bingham and lived there until they retired to Traverse City in 1904. Mrs. Core was an active member of the Woman's Relief Corps for many years.

The Boones were old settlers with an older history. Early in the seventeen hundreds a man named Boone left Holland and went to England, but soon came to America, landing in New England. There he married and had a son named Squire. Squire married and started for the south, and his son, Daniel Boone, was born in Pennsylvania. Squire settled in North Carolina, and there he had another son, Stephen, brother to Daniel, who became the ancestor of the Boones of Bingham. The descent was from Stephen to John; to John; to William; to William B.; and to William B. Boone and his brothers, the generation active in Bingham.

Louis Hockstad had a wife remembered for her beautiful character, and ten boys, all good citizens. John and Angeline Porter settled at the top of the hill south of the school house and built their log house and barn there. The Trudes were among the pioneers, and their son ran a hardware store in Traverse City for many years.

The Early School

There was a little log school house on a hill just south of where the school is now. Miss Blodgett was the first teacher, and "boarded around." Little children wished eagerly that they were old enough to go to school so the teacher "would stay with us for a week."

Bert Smedley, son of Sam and Lizzie Smedley, was the life and the trial of the school. He had a rhyme for everything. One day he had been particularly bad and was to be punished, so he quipped:

"Here I stand before Miss Blodgett,

She's going to strike, and I'm going to dodge it."

John Smedley lived in the old log house on the Levi Lindley farm in 1888-89. His eldest son, Frank, went to the Spanish-American War, and died soon after its close.

The Bingham Sunday school was founded by Gershon Porter about 1868, in his own home. The present school building was erected about 1896, and it became a preaching charge and the Sunday school was conducted there. Mr. Porter was the first superintendent, followed by Ben and Elijah Porter, S. Trude, Warren Fisher, Robert Lowery, Mrs. James Wilson, Mrs. J. Core, Oscar Shugart, and Mrs. Charles Draper.

Fifteen pupils came to the first Sunday school, but the number increased as entire families attended. The early settlers included consecrated Christian people who had come from places where they had church privileges, and they naturally wished to have religious worship and training for their children. After the Evangelical Association church was built in 1898, the Sunday services were held there instead of in the school house.

Chapter 20

GREILICKVILLE

Seth and Albert Norris, men of greatly diversified talents, gave their name to Norristown for a time. They built a grist mill on a creek about two miles north of Traverse City in 1852, and ground grain for the farmers. They also had a tannery, operated by John Foote, which ran from 1880 to 1912, when the supply of hemlock bark was exhausted.

Perhaps the favorite diversion of the Norrises was the brick yard, or one branch of it, the pottery factory. There they could exercise their artistic talents and at the same time make good brick for the buildings being erected in Traverse City.

A new force was rising, which changed the name and character of the town. Godfrey Greilick was a prominent Austrian builder and contractor who, with his large family, came to America in 1848, and after residing for a time in New York, and then in Chicago, came to Norristown in 1854 or 1856. He built a mill and operated it with the aid of his sons. Mr. Greilick was a linguist in Europe, but could not master English. He left this to his sons, who appear not to have attended public school much, but went to night schools and in other ways cultivated their natural gifts.

Anthony, John and Edward Greilick built a saw mill and docks, made sashes and doors, and built up their business until it was one of the largest and most important in the region. They acquired a mill in Suttons Bay also, and held considerable real estate in the county.

Joseph E. Greilick, another brother, was employed by Hannah, Lay & Co., and in 1867 entered into partnership with them. In 1879 he bought out the interests of his partners and built a large new factory on Bay Street, conducting the business alone. Walter G. Greilick, youngest son of Godfrey, worked as a log scaler and bookkeeper for Greilick Brothers, and clerked in the store of W. S. Johnson in Suttons Bay.

Walter E. Greilick, son of John, was a native of Leelanaw county, born in 1867. He was employed on his father's farm, then took a position with W. S. Johnson & Co. in Suttons Bay, so that he might learn the merchandising business. He returned to Greilickville and ran a store for many years. He had a fine farm in the county, and was interested in many other lines of business. He served as township treasurer, township clerk, and supervisor. In 1897 he was appointed post master at Norrisville and had charge until the office was discontinued in 1902.

A. B. Dunlap

Abijah B. Dunlap had a most interesting and varied history. Born in 1809, he graduated from Yale, then from a theological seminary in Auburn, New York. For some years he was in the pastorate, and then became a college professor. Unable to continue his literary work because of serious trouble with his eyes, he came to Michigan and purchased a farm in Elmwood township in 1862. He was elected to the Legislature in 1864 and reelected for a second term. He was also prosecuting attorney for the country, and supervisor for the township. He and his wife did much to advance education in the county.

An agricultural society was organized in Leelanaw county in 1868, with Mr. Dunlap as president; John T. Miller, vice president; and John E. Fisher, secretary. Mr. Dunlap soon resigned and was succeeded by Rev. George N. Smith.

James W. Markham, born in 1847, built up a brick making business three miles from Traverse City, and in 1875 acquired ownership of the yard founded by Albert Norris. Under his management the capacity of the yard was increased from about 200,000 brick annually to about four million brick.

Frederick Heimforth was born in Prussia, coming to America in 1850. After his marriage about a year later, he and his wife went to the North Manitou Islands. In 1864 he moved to Elmwood township and acquired a beautiful farm. His sons, Philip, William, and George, had well-managed and productive farms near by.

After he had served in the Union Army during the Civil War, John R. Fouch came to Leelanaw county in 1866, and took up a homestead near the head of Carp Lake. This became quite an important point in lake navigation. As an additional accommodation, Mr. Fouch ran a resort for some years.

Uncle Dan Whipple

One of the most interesting characters of the township was Dan Whipple, who was born in 1800 and lived to be far over 100 years old. He was a pioneer of the west. In 1843 he joined John C. Fremont's expedition which explored the great Salt Lake area. He met Kit Carson and they became warm friends and hunted together. During his forty years in the west, Uncle Dan crossed the Rockies six times. When the War of the Rebellion broke out he enlisted, though over sixty years old, and remained in the service for four years.

While he was in the west, Uncle Dan became engaged to a daughter of a settler. During his absence, Indians attacked the settlement and took the young woman prisoner. Whipple and four others set out in pursuit. They found the Indians but dared not attack them because they set the girl before them as a shield. Then they tortured her, driving a stake through her body. Whipple and his companions, maddened by the sight, attacked, but were captured. They subsequently escaped, and Whipple went back, found the body of the girl and buried it. He vowed to be revenged — and kept his word.

Mr. Whipple spent his last years with a friend, Marcus Akers, and took a daily walk to Traverse City and back. He observed two Sabbaths, Saturday as required by his own religion, and Sunday, out of deference to his neighbors' beliefs.

Dell Hendershot was a stone mason who built most of the foundations to the homes erected in the eastern part of the county. Good, lasting walls they were.

Chapter 21

THE CHERRY GOES COMMERCIAL

Mr. A. A. Lasch, of Lincoln, Nebraska, was an apple buyer during the late 1890's who traveled through the apple regions of the United States during July and August of each year, locating and taking options on crops. He had buying or packing stations at Elk Rapids, Williamsburg, and Suttons Bay in Northern Michigan.

Mr. Lasch used a horse and buggy on these buying trips. On one of them he saw and fell in love with 160 acres of young Duchess apple trees near the base of Lees Point, purchased it from an estate administered by George Craker, and left it in the hands of a caretaker. When he came back, about 1905 or 1906, he found the orchard had not been cared for properly, for the trees were in bad condition, nearly stripped of leaves by grasshoppers.

Thinking that the apple trees would not survive, Mr. Lasch ordered cherry trees from a brother-in-law who was in the nursery business in Nebraska and planted one small cherry tree (known in the trade as whips) in each square formed by four apple trees. He used heavy applications of barnyard fertilizer and grew vetch and rye between the



Early Cherry Orchards

rows to turn down as green fertilizer. Some of the original trees can still be seen adjacent to the log house built by Levi Lindley for Mr. Lasch.

In 1906 Mr. Lasch and his family came to Lees Bay and lived with Albert and Hannah Lee for two seasons, and for a third season lived in the old John Lee house at the corner of Fort Road and the new M-22 while their house was being built. It was said by pioneers that the Lee house was the first frame structure in the area. When it was torn down for the construction of the new M-22, newspapers and letters dating from Civil War times were found in the walls.

In the meantime, Mr. Lasch's interest in cherries grew. He bought the Hacker farm in Keswick, and the Schaub farm adjoining it, a total of 180 acres, planting cherries, crab apples, Damson plums and pears on them. He bought a section of land in Northport in company with Doctors Williams and Dayton, friends from Lincoln.

In 1906 Ezra Sanborn, who lived on a part of the original James Lee land, bought some trees from Mr. Lasch and set out five acres to cherries on land he had bought from the John A. Lee estate and later sold to Mr. Lasch. Albert Lee set out five acres to cherries north of his barn in 1907 or 1908. Paul Mork, of Suttons Bay, followed suit. Heimforths, in Elmwood, were in the strawberry business then, but Lasch promoted cherries there too, and on the old Dunlap farm. He bought the Martin Johnson farm of 80 acres about 1909, on Rader's Hill, and planted 23 acres to cherries and nine acres to apples. Later he purchased 87 acres and planted 35 of them to cherries, the largest block of early plantings.

The Morgan orchards near Traverse City had been started before this time, as well as a few orchards on the Peninsula, and that of Mr. Markham, who owned the brickyard. But Mr. Lasch was the first man to raise cherries on a commercial scale in Leelanaw county. They are now the principal cash crop in the region.

Cherry Home, north of Northport, was one of the largest cherry orchards in the world when it was set out, about 1914, after the Lasch plantings had been made in Northport and in the southern part of the county. Francis Hazerot bought into the Cherry Home interests about 1916. For a time this orchard maintained its own warehouse and dock, but as the industry grew, Hazerot built a large processing plant in Northport which froze and canned more than four million pounds in 1950. One of the best varieties of black sweet cherries was developed by Charles Nelson, a lumberman and farmer of Northport, who noticed the exceptionally fine fruit on one of his cherry trees and cultivated it into one of the best varieties.

All equipment for working in the cherry orchards was horse-drawn in the early days. Two to four teams of horses, and six to nine men were employed to spray, plow down cover crops, and do hand work around the trees. The first sprayer was made and bought at Schulgen's Machine Shop, in Traverse City.



Mr. Lasch and Cherry Pickers

Cherries are perishable and hard to transport. They had to be clipped and packed by hand in 16-quart crates. During World War I Mr. Lasch shipped a carload of cherries daily for thirty days, a minimum of 750 16-quart crates to a car, from his warehouse at Leelanaw Crossing. These crates had to be nailed in tiers in the car to prevent slipping, and were re-iced in Traverse City before being shipped to the Water Street market in Chicago. Later big trucks were used to ship the cherries, and all night long they speeded by to market.

Mr. Lasch's pay roll for clipping cherries was the only extra income for the local people, and amounted yearly to the price he paid for one farm. He employed 250 pickers at one time. The best pickers were Louise Kelch, Charles Send, and Amelia Kozarek Horton, who could each clip 25 crates in a day.

Later the farmers planted their own orchards and the business grew rapidly. Two canneries were opened at Suttons Bay—Frigid Foods in 1946, which in 1953 handled nine million pounds of the fruit; and the F & M, which processed one and a quarter million pounds.

Many local boys were employed. Mr. Lasch took Reuben Groesser to Weeping Water, Nebraska, to pack apples. Reuben met his future wife there and located in Nebraska. Leonard and Earl Rogers, also of Keswick, were employed on the Lasch farm at Northport and both located in that town.

Four of the original cherry farms are now in possession of Mr. Lasch's daughter, Mrs. Joy L. Valsko, who is converting the hills to forests and Christmas tree plantations. Other portions are being readied for replanting to cherries. Contour planting is now used in many parts of the county. This is the oldest *used* land in the county and requires rest before further cropping, a conservation policy far removed from the earlier practice of using the land until it was exhausted and then attempting to use it again.

Each year, when the cherry trees are in full bloom, the ceremony of the "Blessing of the Blossoms" is held at Bowers Harbor, on the Peninsula, with a clergyman invoking the Divine blessing on the prospective crop. There is also a Blossom Tour, in which Leelanaw county joins, and many people view the enchanting scene of miles of pink and white cherry blossoms.

Chapter 22

THE RAILROAD

The State of Michigan received, through grants of Congress in 1856 and 1864, certain alternate sections of public lands, to be devoted to the building of a railroad. Of this, 1,160,182 acres were granted to the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railway Company, to be used in constructing a first class road from Fort Wayne, Indiana, to some point on Traverse Bay, Michigan, a distance of 333 miles.

A preliminary survey was ordered in 1856, and the Grand Rapids and Northern Railway Company was organized with a capital stock of \$170,000. In January, 1857, Engineer Innes made estimates that the cost of building the road to Traverse City would be \$23,000 per mile. In the winter the company sold out to the G. R. & I. Railway Company.

The crash of 1857 prevented progress with the work. In 1864 Congress added to the land grant five miles in width, but the people were so taxed by the war that little could be done for several years. The time for completion was approaching, and a climax was reached in 1868. The company had been badly managed. People complained bitterly about keeping the land out of the market for such a long period. A receiver was appointed. The Legislature granted a brief extension of time, and the road was extended to Morley. Then came the contract with the Continental Improvement Company to complete the road. It was completed and trains were running seven months in advance of the time required by law. The Governor of the State accepted it on November 25, 1873, as a first class railway.

Until the Manistee & Northeastern Railway Company was extended from Manistee to Traverse City, Leelanaw county was entirely without railway facilities. That railway described a curve in the southern part of the county with stations at Fouch and Solon. In 1903, a branch of that road was completed from Solon to Centerville, into Leland township, and to Provement.

The Traverse City, Leelanaw & Manistique Railway was completed from Traverse City to Northport, and regular passenger service was inaugurated in 1903. The station stops were Hatch's Crossing, Bingham, Keswick, Leelanaw Crossing, Suttons Bay, Omena, and Northport.

A car ferry was built which ran from Northport to Manistique, thus connecting the Lower with the Upper Peninsula. Because of the ice in Lake Michigan, the ferry was unable to operate during the winter. It was a great event when the first boat came through in the spring, its hoarse whistle calling all to come down to the dock to meet it.

The coming of the railroad meant that the farmers had a convenient means of shipping their produce, and they also made a pretty penny from supplying food to the laborers working on the road. The men were nearly all Italians, who camped near by and cooked their own meals. They bought meat, vegetables, bread, and the like, and the women were kept busy baking and digging vegetables for them.

Little Pete, the water boy, was a favorite with the Keswick young people. His name was Peter Gualosh, but he was always known by the diminutive. During the day he was at the beck and call of the men, but on Sundays he was free to visit with his friends.

Chapter 23

THE AUTOMOBILE ARRIVES

From 1863 to 1868 road were opened by state authority and with little expense to the people. Though they did not know it, they were

preparing the way for the automobile, a vehicle with little patience for dust and bumps, and which required ever better roads.

Cassie Kuemin bought the first car in Keswick in 1911. It was an Imperial. When he went to the Detroit factory to get it, he did not like the brass bars which ran diagonally from the windshield in front to the middle of the car. In the morning when he returned he found that the rods had been painted black. There were no doors in the front of the car.

Dan Sanborn had the second car in 1912, Albert Lee the third, and Perry Lindley the fourth, a Studebaker, all in 1912. Meberts had a Krit in 1913, John Groesser a Reading, and Con Lather a Rambler. They were two cylinder cars, with chain drive, and carbon lights.

Dr. Slepica had the first car in Suttons Bay. Later Dr. Smiseth, being a Norwegian, had a snowmobile, a car with four wheels, elongated body, and two skis in front.

Joe Oberlin, of Bingham, went to Traverse City to get his car. Word spread, as it does in the country, and the children gathered to watch for him. When he came in sight they shouted, "Here comes Joe!" The mothers rushed out and snatched the children from the fence, for the car was coming at the terrific speed of fifteen miles an hour and making an appalling noise.

Chapter 24

THE HONOR ROLL

The loyalty and patriotism of the young men of Leelanaw county has been demonstrated in the wars that have occurred, some of them giving their lives for their country. A list of those who have entered the service from Keswick, Bingham and Lees Bay is given here, as nearly correct as the available records can make it:

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR 1898

SGT. THOMAS I. McCORMICK
FRANK SMEDLEY

WORLD WAR I 1917-1918

HENRY BEHM
JAMES GILLAND
HARRY GROESSER
ROY GROESSER
ANDREW GROHOWSKY
WILLIAM HINSHAW
JAMES KEATON
LOUIS KEATON

GORDON K. LINDLEY
GUY SANBORN
MORGAN SANBORN
EMIL SCHULTZ
EDWARD SEND
OSCAR SHUGART
FRED ZIMMERMAN—*Died of flu*
JOHN ZIMMERMAN—*Died of flu*

WORLD WAR II 1941-1945

KENNETH BERG
ARNOLD BOONE
LOUIS BOONE
ROBBINS BOONE
WILLIAM BOONE

LAWRENCE MORIO
WALTER OBERLIN
WESLEY REINCKE
ROBERT RUFLI
DOUGLAS SALISBURY—*Killed in service*

HERBERT CURRY
 JAMES DRAPER
 ELTON ELEY
 DONALD GROESSER
 PAT HAWKINS
 REX HAWKINS
 GEORGE HINSHAW
 BRUCE HOCKSTAD
 GORDON HOCKSTADT—*Killed in service*
 THOMAS KEATON
 KENNETH KROUSE
 CASSIE KUEMIN—*Killed in service*
 JOSEPH KUEMIN
 LAWRENCE KUEMIN
 GLENN LEE

GUY SALISBURY
 EDWARD SEND
 JAMES SEND
 WILLIAM SCHULTZ
 FRANCIS SHAUB
 KEITH SHUGART
 KENNETH SHUGART
 VERNE SHUGART
 DON STEIMEL
 MAURICE VANDERBURG
 JERRY WALTERS
 PETER WALTERS
 PHILIP WALTERS
 NEIL WEIGAND
 ROBERT WEIGAND
 WILLIAM R. WEIGAND

KOREAN WAR 1950 —

GARY DOBSON
 MAX DONNER
 WILLIAM DONNER—*Served in Korea*
 WILLIAM FLEESE
 JAMES FLOHE
 RICHARD FLOHE
 LAVERNE FEHRENBACH
 RONALD GILLAND
 LESTER GROESSER
 RICHARD GROESSER
 WAYNE GROESSER—*Served in Korea*
 EUGENE HUNT

JOHN KUEMIN
 ROBERT KUEMIN
 IVAN LIVINGSTON
 LARRY PRIEST
 WAYNE RUSHTON
 DONALD O. SANBORN
 ARTHUR SEND
 REX SHUGART
 ARNOLD SMITH
 DONALD WALTERS—*Served in Korea*
 ROBERT WHITAKER

Chapter 25
CONCLUSION

This is the story, in brief, of OUR FIRST FAMILIES who settled the eastern part of Leelanaw county. They were brave, resolute, persevering, with a sense of humor that made hardships bearable. They aspired to better things for themselves and their children. Yet they had a nostalgic fondness for the old days, and often told of their adventures or misadventures with roars of laughter. Their more tender sentiments were well expressed by the writer who, under the pseudonym of "Ebn Flowe" wrote these lines preserved in Rose Palmer's Scrap Book:

THE OLD LOG HOUSE

There's a new house built on the farm this year,
But strange to say, we can't move in.
The young folk portioned it out for us,
John and Ethyl and Carolyn.
They planned the bath of colored tile,
The chromium kitchen shining white,
But they forgot to leave a space
To rock a child on a winter's night.

Dad and I keep putting it off
Day after day, to look instead
At their growing marks behind the door,
At the swing they had in the old wood shed.
They don't know the store we set
In touching the things they used to touch
When they were little and careless, and ours
To do for, though it wasn't much.

And then Dad's old leather couch
Wouldn't look right in a house so grand.
My posey plants would be out of place.
But we cannot tell them; you understand.
They mean so well — those young folks do,
John and Ethel, and Carolyn.
But loving them so, we just can't leave
The old log house that we raised them in.

